

THE GREEN BOOK

BY MUAMMAR AL QADHAFI

PART 1

The solution of the problem of Democracy

PART 2

The solution of the Economic Problem

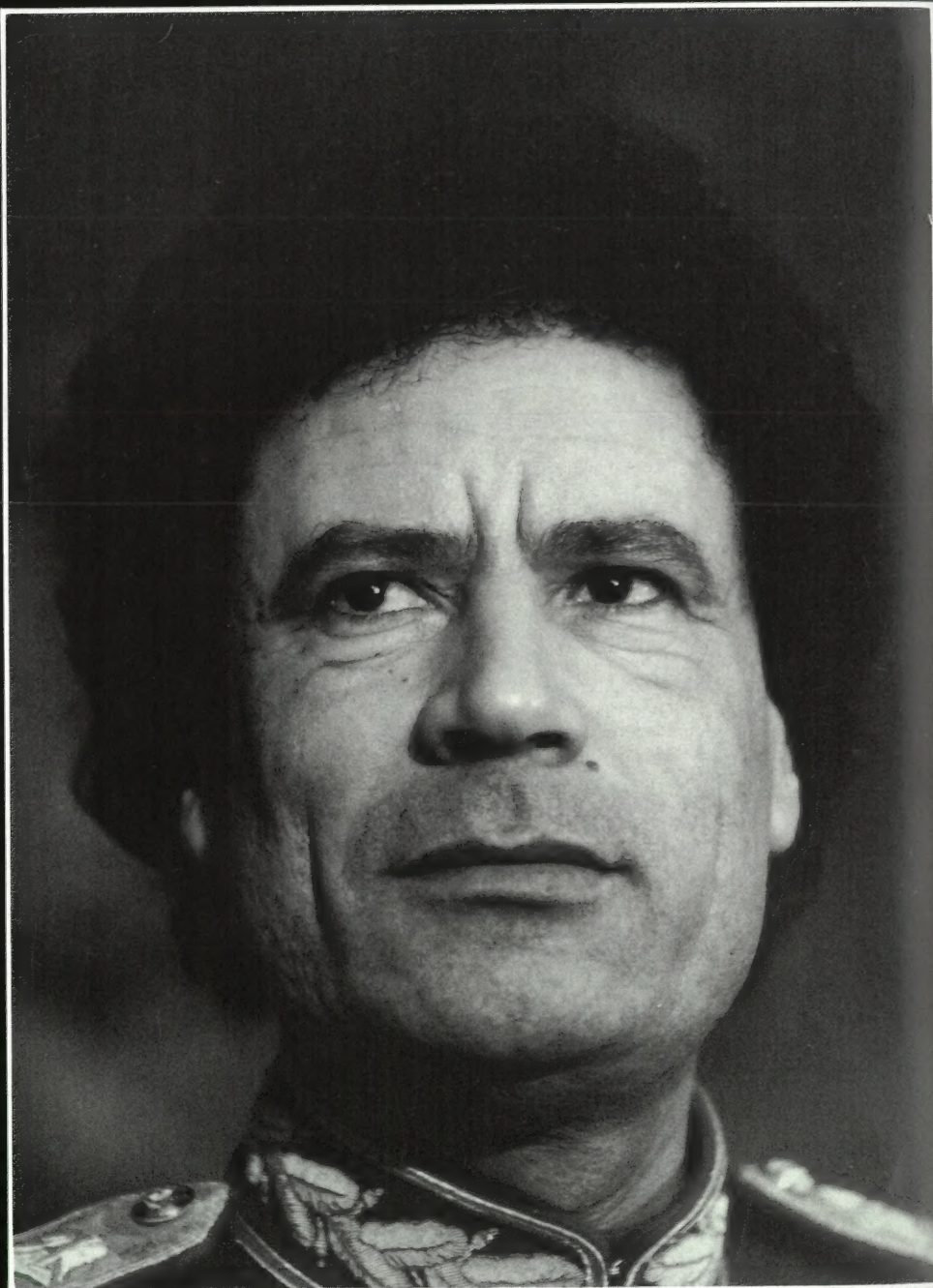
PART 3

The Social Basis of the Third Universal Theory

In these three volumes the Libyan leader examines the economic, social and political problems confronting the world today, and presents a radical programme for their solution.

The Green Book provides a comprehensive review of the theories on which the Libyan

proposals put forward by Muammer al Qadhafi are not merely theories but an explanation and insight into the structure and priorities of modern Libya.



Copies of The Green Book can be obtained from The Information Department, The Libyan People's Bureau of the Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 5 St James's Square, London SW1.

jamahiriya review

July 1983

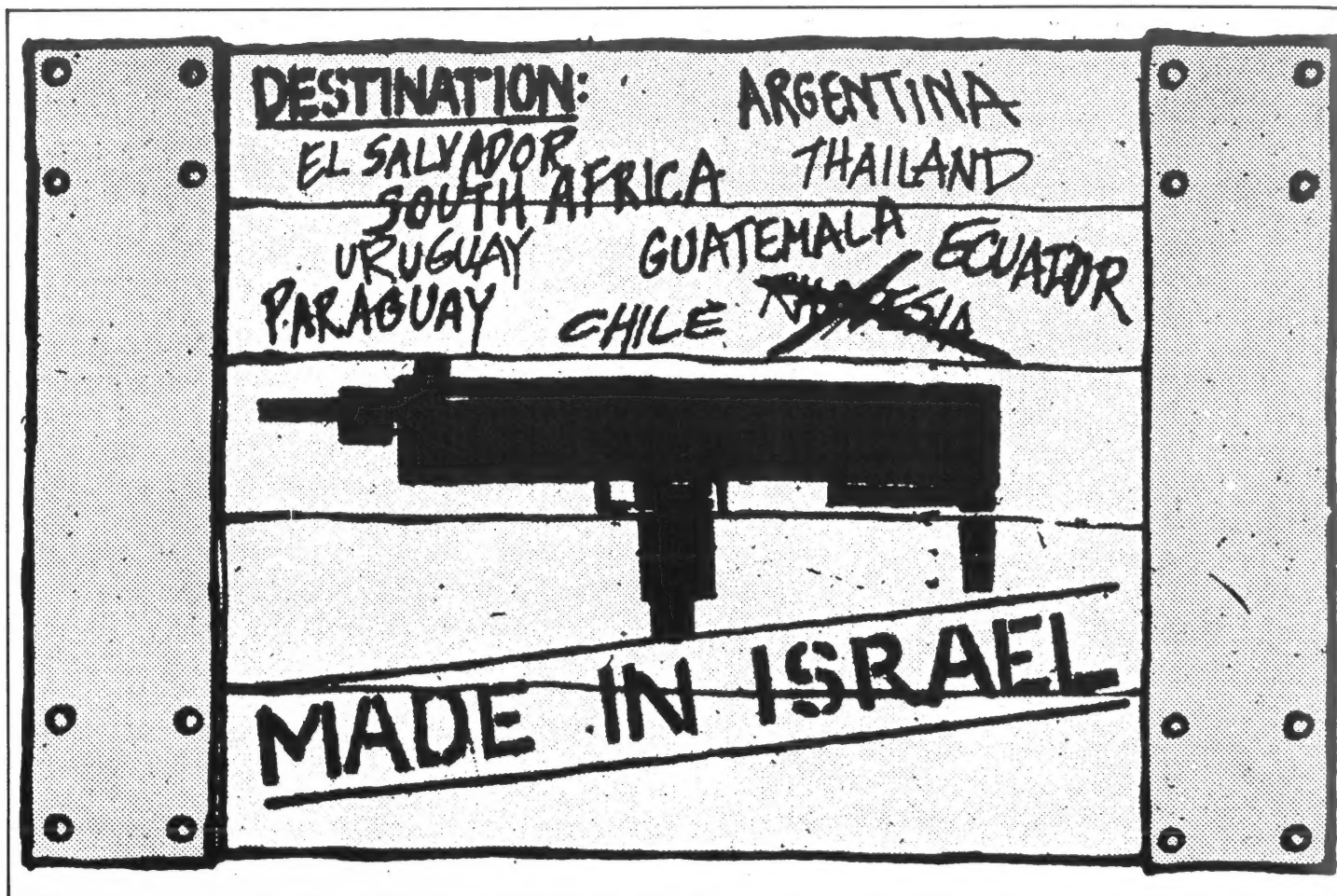
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Inside:
Chad: Facts
and fiction



Qadhafi's mission for Arab destiny

Special report
on the Libyan leader's
tour of Arab capitals



The Green March

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jamahiriya review

July 1983

No 38

□ QADHAFI'S TOUR: In recent weeks Muammer Qadhafi has embarked on an important tour of Arab capitals to urge Arab leaders to recognise the need for a united defence programme and the mobilisation of the Arab nation's resources to confront the armed threat from Israel. As international observers warn of the prospect of an Israeli attack against Syria, a special correspondent reports on page 9 on the Libyan leader's tour and examines his message.

□ CONFLICT IN CHAD: As the Western media turns its attention to the escalating conflict in Chad, on page 13 Robert Miller examines the way the press is using the war as part of the Americans' continuing campaign against the Libyan Jamahiriya. In addition our editorial commentary on page 4 looks at the various foreign powers now involved directly in the conflict and asks why Libya, which has no troops in the country, but legitimate security concerns over the future of its southern neighbour, should be accused of intervention.

□ THE ZIONIST BOMB: Despite international concern at the continuing instability in the Arab homeland caused by Israel's military aggressions in the region, little attention is given to the stockpile of nuclear warheads held by the Zionists. On page 12, Louis Eaks reviews the Israeli nuclear programme in which the United States and South Africa are playing crucial roles.

□ OIL AND WATER: A recent conference in London, sponsored by Libya's National Academy for Scientific Research and the International Maritime Organisation, could have important implications in countering environment pollution. Dr Alan George attended the seminar and spoke with Libyan researchers pioneering the project. His report appears on page 15.

□ BRITISH TRADE: British consultants are playing a key role in the development of a major leisure complex in Benghazi, entailing the creation of artificial lakes with a full range of park and lakeside recreational facilities. As research work proceeds in Britain, a special report on the project, and the Anglo-Libyan co-operation involved, is published on page 14.

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Whose hand in Chad?

WHENEVER the Americans become fearful that Libya might mobilise the Arab nation behind a united strategy to face the continuing threat from the Zionists the claim goes out that Libya is fuelling conflict in its southern neighbour, Chad. No one in Washington, of course, sees the irony that a country separated from Africa by the Atlantic Ocean should claim a right to interfere in Chadian affairs while arguing that Libya, with long borders with the central African state, has no right to be concerned.

At the same time, the American argument asserts the legitimacy of military intervention in Chad by Zaïrean and Egyptian forces, where their role is to support a rebel regime which ousted the legitimate government of President Goukouni Oueddei from the capital last year, while Libya's moral support for Goukouni is portrayed as militant and unwarranted intervention by the Jamahiriya.

Of course, the conflict in Chad is not new. It is decades old, predating even the Al Fateh Revolution in Libya under the leadership of Muammar Qadhafi. Nevertheless, instability in Chad is of legitimate concern to the authorities in Tripoli; stability in the region is of paramount importance, and any intervention by forces aligned with the Zionists, such as the recent arrival in Chad of Zaïrean commandos, poses a potentially serious threat to Libya itself.

Added to this is the prospect that the United States may see Chad as a base for military intervention in Libya. The Reagan administration's determination to destabilise the Jamahiriya is well known, and not even denied in Washington.

Late last month the House of Representatives' Intelligence Committee heard from a CIA official how the agency had spent \$10 million supporting the rebel insurgents in Chad led by Hisene Habre during 1981 and early 1982. It was in the face of this threat to its survival that the Chadian government of national unity, created under the auspices of the Organisation of African Unity, appealed to the Jamahiriya to send a Libyan peace-keeping force to Chad. The Americans, and their mouth-piece regimes in Cairo and the Sudan, then had the audacity to accuse Libya of expansionism and of having territorial ambitions in Chad. The Jamahiriya remained steadfast in the face of this criticism, which the US seemed likely to use as a pretext to justify direct armed intervention in Libya. Only when France engineered an OAU peacekeeping role in Chad, and the Chadian government requested the Libyan forces to withdraw, did they do so. According to the CIA evidence given in Washington on 28th June, not only was Goukouni Oueddei's fate placed in the hands of the OAU force headed by Zaïrean commandos (who have now returned to Chad to protect the beleaguered Habre), but the force was financed by the CIA with another \$12 million.

Another power now actively involved in Chad is France,

which seems to assume it still has a right to interfere in its former African colonies, whether it be in Chad or Upper Volta. French arms are being airlifted to Habre, and the prospects of French intervention cannot be immediately discounted. It is well known that there are elements in French intelligence who would dearly like to reassert France's imperial role in Africa; there is no evidence that President Mitterand's self-styled socialist administration has any fewer illusions of imperial grandeur than those of earlier rightist administrations.

Meanwhile, the latest US military provocations off the Libyan coast highlight Washington's pathological determination to heighten tensions in the area, and to impose its self-appointed role as international gendarme, even in areas where it is patently unwelcome. Despite the cool reception given in European capitals over recent years for its plans to destabilise the Jamahiriya, Washington is clearly keen for confrontation.

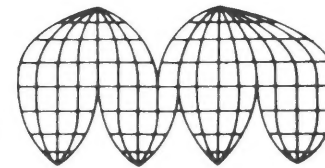
The reasons for Washington's hostility towards the Jamahiriya hardly need explanation. So long as Libya remains steadfast in its resolve not to submit to giving legitimacy to the Zionist presence in the region, nor to permitting the area to become an American colony in all but name, the Jamahiriya poses a major obstacle to Washington's Middle East designs and strategy.

We can only draw attention to the legitimacy of the Jamahiriya's stand. The question of the Zionist occupation of Arab lands requires an Arab decision, not one imposed by the United States. The Arab nation would not consider interfering in the internal and domestic affairs of the United States beyond objective commentary; the United States has no special prerogative to interfere directly or militarily in the Arab region, nor anywhere else beyond its own territorial borders.

The recent US provocations off the Libyan coast are nothing less than blatant sabre-rattling. How pathetic is the American position when it can resort only to gun-boat diplomacy to attempt to impose a policy so firmly rejected by the mass of the Arab nation.

These naval threats to the Jamahiriya undermine America's own assertions that Libya is isolated in the Arab world. Why, if this were true, should it be necessary for the Americans to threaten military intervention against Libya? Of course, linked with a propaganda campaign to discredit the Jamahiriya over totally false allegations of intervention in Chad, the recent naval expedition is intended to present Libya as the aggressor at a time when the Libyan leader is actively seeking to rally the Arab nation around a common strategy to face the American backed and armed Israeli forces which now occupy Palestine and parts of Lebanon and Syria. There is nothing the Americans and their Zionist proteges fear more than an Arab nation united.

A monthly
review of
Libyan, Islamic
and Third World
affairs



PANDORAMA
news review

Muammar Qadhafi visits Morocco

THE URGENCY with which the Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi sees the need to mobilise the defences of the Arab nation to confront the military advances of Israel was underlined on 1st July when he arrived in Rabat for talks with the Moroccan monarch, King Hassan.

It was the first visit to Morocco by the Libyan leader for fourteen years, and during this time the two countries have been at odds over a number of key issues, including Arab relations with the United States, strategy to deal with ending the Zionist occupation of Palestine, the Western Sahara issue and Chad.

The main purpose of the Libyan leader's visit was to hold face-to-face talks with King Hassan, and to stress the Jamahiriya's paramount concern at the increasing threat to Arab sovereignty posed by the Zionist regime in occupied Palestine and Lebanon. His mission was to urge the Moroccan leader to join ranks with the Arab nation around a firm policy of military mobilisation to face the threat from Israel, and to bring to an end, once and for all, any strategy based on compromise with the Zionists through American sponsored diplomatic initiatives.

A joint communiqué issued at the end of the Libyan leader's three day visit said the two countries had resolved to 'put an end to everything capable of harming relations between the two countries, and to establish permanently fraternal relations'.

□ A special report on Muammar Qadhafi's earlier visits to North Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Jordan appears on page 9.

Lebanon agreement is totally rejected

THE US-sponsored 'troop withdrawal' agreement signed in May between the Zionist state and the Gemayel regime in Beirut has been firmly dismissed by the Arab People's Congress (APC), meeting in special session in the Syrian capital Damascus.

The APC, which links non-governmental Arab nationalist



Muammar Qadhafi with Morocco's King Hassan

organisations and individuals from throughout the Arab homeland, affirmed its 'total rejection' of the Lebanon agreement, describing it as 'an agreement for submission and capitulation to the enemy'. The APC communiqué, issued on 11th June, called on all 'progressive, democratic and patriotic Arab forces opposed to the agreement'.

The Beirut-Tel Aviv treaty, which offers Israel important political gains from its savage invasion of Lebanon, provides for a pull-back of Israeli troops to south Lebanon, where they will be allowed to remain indefinitely, and for open borders between the Zionist state and Lebanon. The Israelis say that they will implement the agreement only if Syrian troops are withdrawn from Lebanon. Damascus, however, has shown no sign of pulling out so long as the Israeli army remains in occupation of large areas from which it is well placed to launch direct military assaults on the Syrian capital and other major cities.

The Lebanon agreement has also been firmly rejected by another Tripoli body, the International Secretariat of the Committee in Solidarity with the Arab People and their central cause, Palestine. Ending a meeting in Damascus on 12th June, the International Secretariat stressed that the Lebanon accord constituted a violation of UN Security Council resolutions 508 and 509, passed shortly after Israel launched its invasion last summer, which stipulated an unconditional Zionist withdrawal from Lebanon.

Aircraft come home

LAST MONTH saw the return to the Jamahiriya of three Libyan transport planes which had been detained in Brazil while en route to

CIA admits role in Chad

THE CIA overthrew the Chadian government headed by President Goukouni Oueddei in 1982 according to a secret testimony given in Washington on 28th June. The regime, set up by the OAU, was challenged by Hisene Habre's rebel army, supported by a \$10 million CIA campaign, the House of Representatives' Intelligence Committee was told by CIA representatives. The disclosures were reported in only one British newspaper, the London Evening Standard, which carried its report from its Washington correspondent Jeremy Campbell under the headline 'CIA overthrew African regime'.

CIA overthrew African regime

WASHINGTON, Tuesday. The CIA overthrew the Chadian Government in 1982, according to a secret testimony given in Washington on 28th June. The regime, set up by the OAU, was challenged by Hisene Habre's rebel army, supported by a \$10 million CIA campaign, the House of Representatives' Intelligence Committee was told by CIA representatives. The disclosures were reported in only one British newspaper, the London Evening Standard, which carried its report from its Washington correspondent Jeremy Campbell under the headline 'CIA overthrew African regime'.

The Standard, Tuesday 28th June 1983

Nicaragua for delivery of their cargoes of arms, urgently needed by the Sandinista government to block invasions by US-backed mercenaries based in Honduras and Costa Rica.

The three aircraft, loaded with 52 tonnes of weapons, were detained in April, when the Brazilian authorities discovered that the cargo manifest cited 'medical supplies' rather than weapons. Tripoli apologised for the discrepancy, attributing it to dishonesty on the part of a Libyan civil aviation official.

The Reagan administration at once seized on the incident to justify its aggressive policies in Central and South America, saying that it proved American allegations of 'subversion' in the region. It was an absurd claim, since there was nothing secret or even unusual about the arms shipments. The Jamahiriya makes no secret of its close links with the Nicaraguan Revolution, and the shipment was simply a case of one sovereign country supplying military equipment to another sovereign country, ▶

The CIA campaign was motivated not only by Washington's desire to install a proxy regime Chad, but also by the presence of Libya's peacekeeping force which had been invited into the country by President Goukouni Oueddei. When the Chadian government asked the Libyan forces to leave, they did so, paving the way for the entry of a Zaïrean commanded OAU force. The CIA sources also disclosed that the US then provided \$12 million toward the cost of the force which offered no resistance to the advancing force of the Habre-led rebels, and ended with the collapse of the Oueddei regime.

□ Other news and comment concerning events in Chad appears in the editorial column on page 4 and on page 13 of this issue.

▷ In the same way as the United States supplies arms to Chile and El Salvador.

Initially, the Brazilian government insisted that the Libyan aircraft could return only if their cargoes were shipped back to Tripoli separately. The Jamahiriya firmly rejected this condition, insisting that the planes must return with their own crews and with their cargoes on board.

The Libyan position was backed by many Brazilian politicians, who resented the way in which the affair was being used by Washington to sour relations between Rio and Tripoli. On 9th June the Jamahiriya news agency JANA disclosed that Mr Arton Soares, the Leader of the Labour Group in the Brazilian Parliament, had collected a large number of signatures from MPs of various parties, for a petition demanding that the government take a more conciliatory line.

Eventually, the Brazilian government relented, and in June the three transport aircraft arrived safely back in Tripoli, manned by their own crews and with the arms cargoes safely on board, as Libya had demanded.

The last of the aircraft returned home on 14th June, and at a ceremony at Tripoli Airport the following day the crew members were presented with certificates of merit and duty medals by the Jamahiriya's Communications and Marine Transport Secretary, Mr al Bukhari Salim Hudah.

Self-administration gathers pace

THE LATEST moves towards the implementation of self-administration at Libya's educational institutions was announced by the Jamahiriya news agency JANA on 2nd June, which announced that the revolutionary committee at the National Administration Institute — the equivalent of a civil service college — had endorsed a programme for direct self-management of the institute by its staff and students. JANA added that self-administration had also been proclaimed at the teachers' training college at Al Aziziya.

Under Libya's *jamahiri* system of direct democracy, citizens take direct, personal responsibility for decision-making, through their participation in the debates of their local Basic People's Congresses. The system was proclaimed in March 1977, and direct democracy has since been gradually extended to take in factories and other places of work.

Libya's educational institutions are the current focus of moves to expand direct democracy, fol-

lowing a call by revolutionary leader Muammer Qadhafi on 28th March, in an address marking the Thirtieth Anniversary of the evacuation of British military bases from Libyan soil. 'As of 7th April, self-management will begin in all educational institutions,' he declared, adding that the move would be 'but a stage in escalating the people's authority and in the development of the *jamahiri* society'.

At the same time, Colonel Qadhafi called for the establishment of popular authority at the Foreign Liaison Bureau, which oversees Libya's international relations. The response came on 11th May, when Libyan trade unionists set up a people's committee to administer the Bureau.

US evacuation celebrated

CITIZENS THROUGHOUT the Jamahiriya on 11th June marked the Thirtieth Anniversary of the expulsion of American military bases from Libya with a series of major rallies and marches. A highlight of the celebrations was a huge military parade at Me'tiga air base near Tripoli. Under the Idris monarchy, overthrown by the Al Fateh Revolution on 1st September 1969, the base was known as Wheelus, and was the largest US military installation outside North America. Accompanying the country-wide rallies and parades was a series of air displays staged by fighter squadrons of the Libyan air force.

In a commentary on 9th June, the Editor of the Jamahiriya news agency JANA said that the expulsion of the US bases had been 'the biggest defeat ever inflicted by the Libyan Arab people on America'.

The occasion was marked at Tripoli's Al Khadra'a Hospital by a graduation ceremony for 224 doctors, nurses and health sector civil servants, JANA disclosed on 10th June.

Libyan envoy shot

MR ABDULKHADER Ghouqa, a member of the People's Committee of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Beirut, was gravely wounded on 5th June when a gunman fired six shots at him after following him to his residence in the Napoleon Hotel.

Mr Ghouqa, 50, was Libya's Ambassador to Lebanon between 1973 and 1976, when he was named as Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates. He returned to Beirut in 1978 as Chargé d'Affaires.

Since 1977 the Jamahiriya has been transforming its traditional

embassies into People's Bureaux, administered by committees of ordinary Libyans. The diplomatic missions in Arab countries are termed Brotherhood Bureaux, as a token of the Al Fateh Revolution's deep commitment to Arab unity.

Co-operation with East Germany

A CLEAR demonstration of the brotherly ties between the Libyan and East German peoples came last month with visits to Berlin by a high ranking delegation from the Jamahiriya, and a simultaneous visit to Tripoli by German officials.

In Berlin the Libyan team, headed by Planning Secretary Fawzi Shakshuki, attended a series of meetings of the Joint Libyan-German Commission, which oversees the development of trade relations between the two countries. On the German side, the commission was attended by Mr Werner Buschmann, Minister of Light Industry. The meetings ended on 5th June with the signature of a co-operation agreement calling for even closer trade ties between the two countries.

While in democratic Germany, the Libyan Planning Secretary conferred with his counterpart, Mr Gerhard Schuser, Chairman of the State Planning Commission.

In Tripoli, meanwhile, a delegation from East Germany was reviewing ties with Libya, during a visit made at the invitation of the Jamahiriya's General Vocational Congress, the forum for debate and decision-making by Libyan workers. The visit ended on 1st June with a joint communiqué expressing satisfaction at the results achieved, which included an agreement to step up exchanges of skilled personnel.

Qadhafi urges collective action in agriculture

A CALL for greater emphasis on mass, collective action as a means of boosting agricultural output was made by revolutionary leader Muammer Qadhafi in discussions with Libya's General Agricultural Congress in Tripoli on 19th May. He also called for the introduction of 'agricultural revolutionary guides' to mobilise citizens for such campaigns.

The Libyan leader pointed to the recent afforestation campaign in the Jebel Akhdar region of north east Libya, in which thousands of citizens from all parts of the

Jamahiriya had participated, as an example that should be followed.

Colonel Qadhafi was speaking at one of a series of meetings convened by the General Agricultural Congress, which acts as a forum for debate and decision-making for the country's farm workers. At the centre of the GAC discussions were means of implementing resolutions passed in February by the General People's Congress (GPC), the Libyan legislature, calling for greater efforts to increase agricultural output.

Libya's agricultural development programme calls for food self-sufficiency by the turn of the century, but results have at times not matched expectations. Drawbacks in the agricultural sector were high on the agenda at the last three meetings of the General People's Congress.

Following this year's GPC meeting, Muammer Qadhafi stepped up his personal efforts to rectify the situation, paying a series of visits to agricultural development projects for wide-ranging discussions with farm workers, aimed at identifying problems that were holding back progress. In April the Libyan leader conferred with the General People's Committee for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation, whose officials had been comprehensively reshuffled at the special GPC session in March last year.

'One voice for Africa'

THE NINETEENTH summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) ended in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on 12th June with an affirmation of faith in the pan-African body by its newly elected Chairman, Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam. 'We have proved that Africa can have one voice, and that it is the voice of 500 million Africans,' he declared, adding: 'We have made it clear to our friends and enemies once and for all that the unity of Africa will become even stronger, and cannot be shaken by the waves of minor differences.'

Two attempts to convene the OAU summit in Tripoli last year failed. First, a quorum was denied when some countries refused to accept the presence of a delegation from the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR). A second attempt to gain a quorum foundered when a number of African delegations walked out over the presence of representatives of the illegal Chadian regime of Hissene Habre.

This year, head-on clashes on the same issues were averted, although the SADR did voluntarily withdraw from the summit to avoid any repetition of last year's friction.

Wide agreement was reached in Addis Ababa on the key issues of Namibia, the Western Sahara, and southern Africa. The summit demanded immediate independence for South African-occupied Namibia, and dismissed US calls for the question to be linked to a withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

On the Western Sahara, the summit reaffirmed its call of five years ago for a referendum which would allow the disputed region's inhabitants to choose between Moroccan occupation and independence. The Addis Ababa summit specified that this should take place within six months.

The persistent aggressions by the racist regime in Pretoria against neighbouring countries were firmly denounced, and the OAU called for an end to South Africa's economic blockade of landlocked Lesotho, which earlier this year became the target of armed attack by Pretoria. An appeal was also directed at international aid agencies to help develop Lesotho's water and agricultural resources, so that South Africa's economic stranglehold might be loosened.

Muammer Qadhafi attended the OAU summit at the head of a high ranking Libyan delegation which included Foreign Liaison Secretary Abdel Ati al Ubeidi, the Jamahiriya's Permanent Representative at the United Nations, Dr Ali Abdel Salem Treiki, and Dr Muhammad al Sharif, Secretary-General of the Tripoli-based Islamic Call Society, a missionary body engaged in an active programme in African countries.

While in Addis Ababa, Colonel Qadhafi held a series of consultations with African leaders, including Nigeria's President Shugu Shagari, Ethiopia's President Mengistu Haile Mariam, President Ratsiraka of Madagascar, and President Abdulaziz of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic.

From Ethiopia, the Libyan leader embarked directly on his major tour of Arab countries, which took him to north Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria. □ *A full report on Colonel Qadhafi's Arab tour starts on page nine.*

Equestrian team sweeps the board

LIBYAN HORSEMEN competing in the International Championship at Austria's Melbelling Arena came first amongst the seven nations participating, and individual gold medals were won by two Libyan riders.

Khalifa Mulaitan, on the horse El Mareh, clinched the gold medal in the finals on 6th June, after completing two faultless rounds to



Ammar Ali riding Ain al Hasud

beat 25 participants. In an earlier round, Ammar Ali, on the horse Mawhoub, came first amongst 34 contestants.

The Libyan equestrian team began a European tour by competing in Rome's 51st International Championships, which opened on 3rd May. From Rome, the riders went on to compete in the Windsor International Show Jumping Competition in Britain. Before taking part in the Austrian event, the riders had participated in another international contest in West Germany.

Qadhafi clarifies stand on Western Sahara

FOLLOWING HIS tour of Arab capitals in June, Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi issued a special statement defining and clarifying the Jamahiriya's position on the Western Sahara conflict, setting the issue firmly in the context of broader regional developments.

The Western Sahara achieved its independence from Spanish colonial rule in 1976, but was then divided between Mauritania and Morocco. Mauritania subsequently pulled out, leaving Morocco facing a liberation war waged by the forces of the Polisario Front. The Jamahiriya, together with Algeria, firmly supported the struggle of the Sahrawi people for self-determination, but this support soured relations with Morocco.

This year has seen a growing rapprochement between Algeria and Morocco, and at the OAU summit in Addis Ababa in June African leaders called for a referendum, to take place within six months, to allow the Sahrawi people to decide their future without external interference.

Stressing that 'the OAU has become responsible for dealing with this issue', Muammer Qadhafi affirmed that Libya had 'fully car-

ried out its duty' towards the Western Sahara, first helping it to attain liberation from Spanish rule, and later providing support to Polisario.

The Libyan leader added that following the resumption of closer ties between Algeria and Morocco, there was 'no problem or disagreement between Libya and Morocco'.

Stressing that the overriding issue facing the Arab nation remained Israeli aggression and expansionism, Muammer Qadhafi reaffirmed the Jamahiriya's leading role in Arab efforts to confront the common enemy. At this critical juncture, he said, Libya 'will set aside all considerations' which might weaken the collective Arab position.

Houphouet-Boigny calls for war

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya has firmly rebuffed an extraordinary statement by Felix Houphouet-Boigny, the ageing pro-French ruler of Ivory Coast, in which he urged western powers to mount a political and economic boycott of Libya.

Interviewed by the *Washington Post* on 10th June, the West African ruler said that at a meeting with President Reagan he had suggested that the US and Europe should exert diplomatic and financial pressure on Libya to halt Tripoli's support for liberation movements worldwide.

Responding to Houphouet-Boigny's pronouncement, the Political Editor of the Jamahiriya news agency JANA described it on 13th June as 'a blatant call to undermine the security of the Libyan people and to apply an economic and political boycott on Libya, in an obvious attack against Libyan sovereignty'.

At the same time, the Political

Editor continued, it was 'a violation of the principle of independence of states, and interference in the domestic affairs of another country'.

The Ivory Coast President, said the Political Editor, was 'officially calling for US and Western direct interference in African affairs', warning that the move carried 'grave implications'.

Houphouet-Boigny's statement amounted to a 'public and official declaration of war on his behalf against the Jamahiriya'.

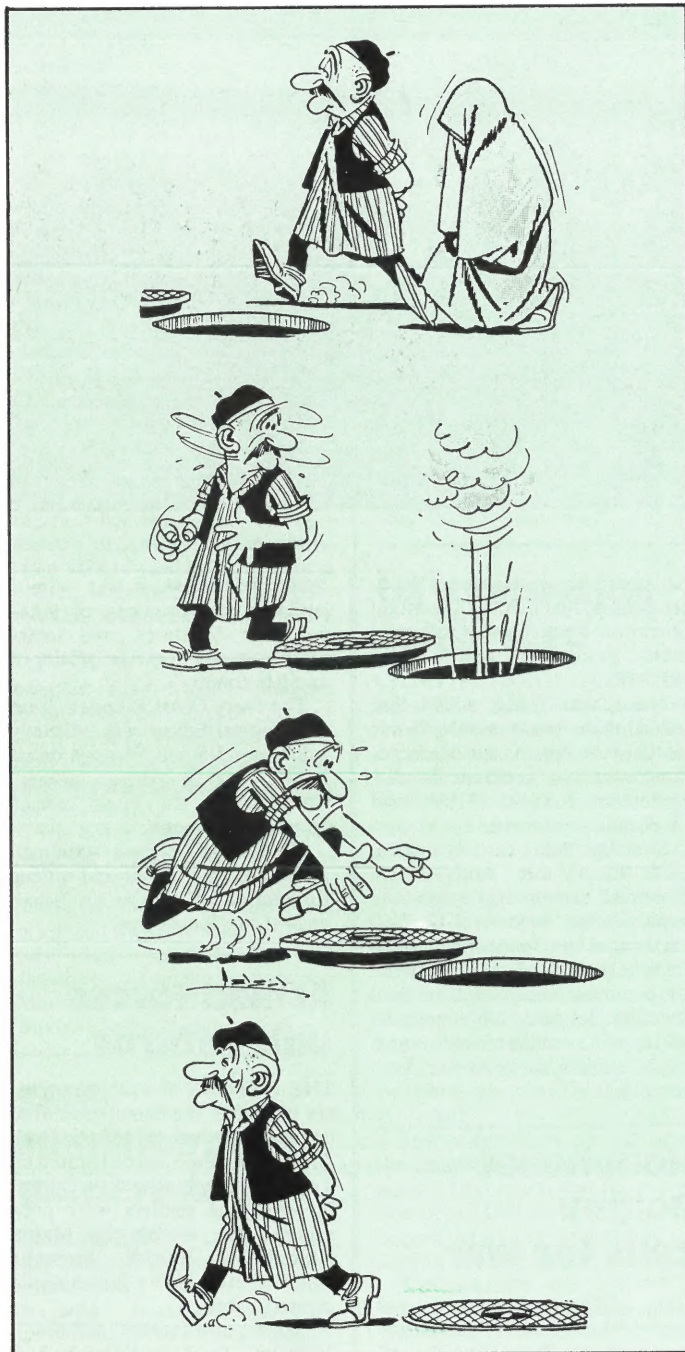
Armed forces unit returns

THE RETURN of a Libyan military unit after the completion of a training mission in the Central African Republic was celebrated in Tripoli on 6th June at a ceremony in which the soldiers were presented with medals by Major Khweildi al Hamidi, Assistant Chief of Staff of the Jamahiriya's Armed Forces.

Earlier, at a farewell ceremony in Bangui, President Kolingba had also paid tribute to the role played by the Libyan military unit in consolidating friendly ties between the Libyan and Central African peoples.

Islamic centre for Mali and Gabon

THE ESTABLISHMENT of an Islamic cultural centre in Mali, and a proposal for another in Gabon, were high on the agenda of talks in Dubai on 4th June between Mr Tahir Muhammad al Shuweihidi, Secretary General of the Libyan-United Arab Emirates Joint Commission for Establishing Islamic Cultural Centres, and Mr Saqr al Murri, Under Secretary at the UAE Ministry of Justice and



A cartoon by Muhammad al Zawawi

► Islamic Affairs. Also present was Mr Ali Maria, Secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in Dubai.

The Commission, chaired by Mr al Murri, was established in 1975, and recently had its capital raised from 24 to 42 million dollars.

Last year the commission established one Islamic centre in each of Burundi, Rwanda and Togo, and five centres in southern Sudan. Each of the centres comprises a mosque, a clinic and sports facilities.

International Environment Day marked

THE UNITED Nations General Assembly has praised Libya's environmental protection programmes, the Jamahiriya news agency JANA announced on 6th June, adding that in a statement to

mark International Environment Day the General Assembly had noted that Libya has stepped up its efforts in this field, and created a range of specialised agencies.

The UN statement urged a world-wide intensification of efforts to protect and conserve the environment, stressing that it was not an issue just for the industrialised countries where pollution was generally more widespread. In

the developing countries of the Third World, the UN noted, pollution was often a direct matter of life or death.

The UN also emphasised the need to step up the search for new sources of water, and for greater attention to afforestation programmes, aimed at conserving soil and water and checking the advance of deserts.

Air and water pollution, the contraction of the area of cultivated land, together with droughts, desertification and disease, all posed serious threat to the well-being of mankind, no less than wars, the UN affirmed.

Cartoonist's exhibition proves popular

A THREE-day exhibition in Kuwait by the Libyan cartoonist Muhammad al Zawawi was so well received that the sponsors, the Kuwait Arts Association, decided to extend the exhibition by four days, the Jamahiriya news agency JANA disclosed on 6th June. Mr al Zawawi specialises in political themes, and is the Jamahiriya's leading cartoonist.

Numeiri threatens air safety

THE HOSTILITY to the Libyan people of the Numeiri regime in Sudan, and its irresponsible lack of concern for the most elementary rules of air safety, were underlined last month when flight instructions were maliciously withheld from a Libyan civil airliner flying within Sudanese air space en route to the OAU summit in Addis Ababa with the Jamahiriya's delegation on board.

Reporting the incident, the Jamahiriya news agency JANA said on 8th June that it was 'a flagrant and intentional violation of civil aviation laws, and a blatant infringement of all the rules of the International Civil Aviation Organisation'.

Agreement with Czechoslovakia

A BILATERAL co-operation agreement between the Jamahiriya and Czechoslovakia was a key outcome of a visit to Tripoli last month by the East European country's Deputy Foreign Minister. The accord, signed at the Foreign Liaison Bureau on 4th June, calls

for an expansion of economic, social, cultural, health information and sporting ties. The agreement also provides for increased contacts between popular organisations in the two countries.

Funds for Arab development

THE COUNCIL of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has prepared an Arab Regional Assistance Scheme costing \$31.9 million over the next four years, the OPEC news agency OPECNA disclosed on 21st June.

The regional programme is based on four priorities — food security, human resource development, strengthening of Arab development institutions, and improving regional transport and communications.

In the 1977-81 period, Arab countries and the UNDP jointly supported 107 regional development projects. UNDP allocations totalled \$22.3 million, and an almost equal sum was provided by Arab countries. The Arabs also provided cost-sharing contributions of \$11 million, together with the OPEC Fund for International Development.

Turkish students graduate

THE GRADUATION of a new batch of 164 students at the Libyan Cultural Centre in Ankara was marked in June by a ceremony attended by the Acting Secretary of the People's Bureau in the Turkish capital and by members of Arab and Islamic diplomatic missions.

Reporting the ceremony, the Jamahiriya news agency JANA said that the students included 13 who had graduated in Arabic language, six in Arabic touch-typing, 77 in fashion and textiles, 28 in artificial flower making, 31 in embroidery and engraving, and 19 in handicrafts.

Scouts stress unity

THE THEME of Arab unity was stressed by the Assistant Secretary of Libya's scouting movement in his inaugural address on 1st June to a pan-Arab scouts' seminar, held in the Scouts' Forest at Bajodaim, near the coastal town of Zawiyeh.

The seminar was attended by representatives of scout movements from Syria, Kuwait, the Yemen Arab Republic, Tunisia and Jordan.



Qadhafi warns of the wider Zionist threat to the Arab nation

THE PLIGHT of the Palestinian people has often been perceived as the central issue in the Arab conflict with the Zionists. The Palestinians, however, are an integral part of the broader Arab nation, and it has always been a mistake to separate their cause from that of the nation as a whole. In the wake of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, and following the conclusion in May of the US-sponsored 'troop withdrawal' agreement between Beirut and Tel Aviv, the true nature of the conflict as a struggle between the Zionists and the wider Arab nation has re-emerged. The response, therefore, should be commensurate to the challenge. Only concerted, joint Arab action, entailing a full mobilisation of resources, will suffice to counter and reverse the expansionism of the Zionist state.

In essence, this was the message that Libyan revolutionary leader Muammar Qadhafi took to a series of Arab capitals last month, as the Jamahiriya seized the initiative in the face of apparent uncertainty amongst Arab leaders as to the scale of the dangers facing the region.

Included in the high-powered Libyan delegation, which visited north Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria, were the Jamahiriya's Foreign Liaison Secretary, Abdel Ati al Ubeidi, Dr Ali Abdesalam Treiki, Libya's Permanent Representative

AN EFFECTIVE, joint Arab response to the Israeli occupation of Lebanon, and to the US-sponsored 'troop withdrawal' agreement concluded between the Beirut regime and the Zionist state, were at the centre of urgent consultations by Muammar Qadhafi in a series of Arab capitals last month. A special correspondent reviews the Libyan leader's tour, which took in North Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria.

at the United Nations, and Dr Muhammad Ahmad al Sharif, Secretary of Tripoli's Islamic Call Society, a missionary body active in Africa and other parts of the Third World.

The 'troop withdrawal' agreement was signed on 17th May, under US auspices. It provides for a pull back of Israeli occupation forces to south Lebanon, where they

would remain permanently, and for open borders between Lebanon and the Zionist state. Moreover, Israel has insisted that implementation of the accord will depend on a prior withdrawal of Syrian and Palestinian forces from north and east Lebanon.

From the outset, the Jamahiriya has argued forcefully that the agreement represents a serious violation of Lebanese sovereignty, transforming it into an Israeli fiefdom. Implementation of the treaty would entail an extension of the US-protected Cair-Tel Aviv axis, with grave implications for the security and independence of the wider Arab region.

Intensive

Muammar Qadhafi started his Arab tour on 9th June with a series of intensive discussions in the Yemen Arab Republic with President Ali Abdullah Salih. The talks focussed on the urgent need for Arab unity, and in a statement reported by the Jamahiriya news agency JANA on 13th June Colonel Qadhafi stressed that the consultations had been both friendly and fruitful. 'We should start building this unity very soon,' he declared, adding that 'Libya and the Yemen Arab Republic are ready to lay the cornerstone of Arab unity'.

The Libyan leader noted that cultural and political conditions in the Jamahiriya and Yemen were similar, and that a union bet-

Between the two would therefore pose no insuperable problems. He stressed that both countries harboured 'the Islamic spirit, and the authentic Arab traditions which we inherited from our forefathers'. The Jamahiriya did not consider President Salih to be 'like other Arab Presidents'. He was 'a soldier and a revolutionary unionist officer'. At the time of the 26th September 1962 Revolution, which ended the era of feudal rule in Yemen, the Libyan leadership had been 'students in school', said Muammer Qadhafi. They nevertheless had been 'inspired by this Revolution which followed the path of the late President Nasser of Egypt'.

Stressing the importance of injecting a new sense of urgency into progress towards Arab unity, Muammer Qadhafi said that during their talks, the two leaders had 'agreed to abandon their differences, promote exchanges of visits and consultations between the two countries, carry out serious unionist action, and complete integration in all sectors'.

Describing the talks in Sana'a as 'historic', the Libyan leader said that they had been the 'first step in the new revolutionary action, following the battle of Beirut, to mobilise the Arab nation's forces into a comprehensive national front' which would turn the tide of Zionist expansionism.

The tone of Muammer Qadhafi's statement was echoed by the North Yemen President, who described the meeting as 'fruitful, whether on bilateral issues or concerning the Arab question'. He added: 'Our points of view were identical, and we discussed steps for pan-Arab unity, which will be achieved in the future, but we shall ourselves lay in our two brotherly countries the cornerstone of that unity'. He disclosed that Libya and Yemen had agreed to set up a special committee to draft practical proposals for Arab unity, which would be submitted to Arab leaders.

Warm

From Sana'a, the Libyan delegation went on to Jeddah, to a warm welcome from



Saudi Arabia's King Fahd

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz, Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz, who is Deputy Premier, and the Commander of the National Guard, from Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz, Minister of Defence and Second Deputy Premier, and from Prince Majid Bin Abdul Aziz, the Governor of the Mecca region. The following day, on 10th June, Muammer Qadhafi and his team held a lengthy working meeting with King Fahd and his advisers, in Jeddah's Hamra Palace.

The Libyan leader's visit to Saudi Arabia had been heralded by a visit to Tripoli in early June by Crown Prince Abdullah, who was himself making a series of visits to Arab capitals to explore the possibilities of reaching a pan-Arab consensus on the Lebanon question and the broader conflict with the Zionist state.

Few details were disclosed on the Jeddah talks, but the Jamahiriya news agency JANA did say on 10th June that under discussion was 'the question of mobilising all

the resources for a joint and unified Arab action to repulse the Zionist train of death, which is fuelled by America'.

On his departure from Saudi Arabia on 10th June, Muammer Qadhafi cabled King Fahd, stressing that 'our meeting comes at a critical time in the history of the Arab nation, and in extremely grave circumstances, in which the existence of us all is threatened'. The Libyan leader also expressed 'full satisfaction with the results of the important talks which we held, which will lay down a firm foundation for collective Arab action to confront the enemy'.

From Jeddah, Muammer Qadhafi and his delegation went on to Amman to confer with Jordan's King Hussein, arriving on 10th June. Again, few details were released, but JANA stressed that at the centre of the talks was the overall threat posed by the Zionists to the Arab nation.

The same day, following his consultations with the Jordanian King, Muammer Qadhafi and his delegation travelled north to the Syrian capital Damascus for talks with President Hafez al Assad. The two sides reaffirmed their deep opposition to the Tel Aviv-Beirut agreement, and stressed the need for Syrian armed forces to remain in Lebanon to prevent the country becoming a springboard for further Zionist encroachments on Arab territory.

The Damascus talks came in the context of regular consultations between the Jamahiriya and Syria. The two countries are engaged in a merger scheme which provides for co-ordination of internal policies as a step towards ultimate unity. Foreign policies are already linked through the two countries' membership of the Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. Set up to counter the Camp David accords, the Front also includes Algeria, Democratic Yemen and the PLO.

The Libyan team returned to the Jamahiriya on the evening of 11th June, after a farewell ceremony at Damascus International Airport, attended by President Assad, Premier Abdul Rauf al Kassem, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Farouk Alsharaa.

Libya stirs opposition to the Lebanon agreement

MUAMMER QADHAFI'S tour of Arab capitals in June came as part of the Jamahiriya's determined efforts to thwart the Lebanon agreement, and to rally the Arab nation for the fight against Israeli expansionism, a commentary on Tripoli radio on 12th June stressed.

The tour had come amid 'concentrated activities in the Jamahiriya recently, and specifically since the signing of the Lebanese-Zionist agreement'.

The commentary recalled that after the agreement had been concluded, Muammer Qadhafi had despatched urgent messages to Arab presidents and kings, 'in which he warned of the dangers of this agreement, and against any delay

in halting the complacency which now leads the Arab nation towards silence'.

The radio further recalled the Libyan leader's speech on 23rd May, to a mass demonstration in Tripoli against the Lebanon agreement, in which he had explained 'the true dimensions' of the agreement, stressing the dangers surrounding it to 'the security and future of the Lebanese people and the Arab nation'.

In his address, the radio continued, the revolutionary leader had also 'stressed the necessity of rejecting the agreement, fighting it and supporting Syria against all the efforts aimed at forcing it to accept the agreement'. Muammer Qadhafi's

address, it was recalled, had been aimed directly at the Arab people as a whole.

As a result of Libya's efforts to draw attention to the dangers posed by the Lebanon accord, 'strong Arab public opposition to the agreement appeared', and the 'positions of the Arab governments became more explicit in condemning the behaviour of the Lebanese authorities'.

The commentary stressed that 'the agreement which the US administration imposed upon the Lebanese administration in favour of the Zionists is undoubtedly the first item on the list of Arab priorities at present'.

WHEN THE Zionists launched their savage invasion of Lebanon a year ago, informed observers predicted that before long the Israeli army would find itself bogged down in a bitter war of attrition which it could not hope to win. The Israeli military machine is the most powerful in the region, and in the absence of military intervention by the Arab states the lightly-armed Palestinian and Lebanese fighters resisting the blitzkrieg never believed that the Zionist armoured columns could be stopped, particularly in view of the Israelis' overwhelming air superiority. Instead, the Arab fighters aimed at inflicting the maximum casualties on the invaders, using the classic hit-and-run tactics of guerrilla warfare. With each passing month, the price that the Zionists have had to pay for their aggression has escalated, and now, one year after the invasion, it is clear that the strategy of the Arab guerrillas has paid off.

A series of ambushes of Israeli patrols by Arab resistance fighters on the three days from 10th-12th June brought the Israeli casualty toll in Lebanon since the launch of the invasion to more than five hundred dead and 3,000 wounded. Of these, 150 died and almost 300 were wounded since the Lebanon war 'officially' ended with the evacuation of Palestinian forces from Beirut at the end of August last year.

Three Israeli soldiers died in just one of the early June attacks, and Robert Fisk of the *Times* said that it was 'the most serious of its kind in recent months'. The soldiers, he said, were killed 'three miles from Tyre when guerrillas raked their two-vehicle patrol with automatic rifle fire as it passed through a narrow lane surrounded by orchards'. The report added that 'Israeli troops said that a fourth soldier — who had chased the gunmen into the orchard — had been kidnapped and taken away by guerrillas'.

The effectiveness of the Arab resistance campaign was underscored by the *Financial Times* on 31st May, which said: 'Israel has yet to find an effective way of combating the rising level of guerrilla attacks. From the point of view of casualties, May could be the worst month since the Israeli forces began their withdrawal from Beirut last September. Seven soldiers were killed and 68 wounded.'

Heavy toll

The same day, the *Daily Telegraph* noted: 'Very few of the PLO attackers had been approached or killed, while the Israelis paid a heavy toll in casualties.'

The grave position of the occupiers was also stressed by the *Daily Telegraph* on 9th June, in a report on the deaths of two Israeli soldiers in Beirut when their armoured vehicle was wrecked by a powerful bomb detonated by remote control. 'Israeli commanders and politicians have always said that they would not be drawn into a war of attrition, but with almost daily attacks on their forces, they seem powerless to do anything to change the situation.'



The legacy of the Zionist invasion

Paying the price of aggression

WHEN THE Zionists launched their invasion of Lebanon, they claimed that the fighting would be over in 72 hours. One year later, their army of occupation is bogged down, impotent in the face of a rising tide of resistance operations by Palestinian and Lebanese guerrillas. Ali Aziz reviews the Zionists' predicament.

Even the Zionist radio is admitting with growing exasperation the grave dangers facing Israeli troops in Lebanon. On 25th April the radio said: 'A journey today on the stretch of coastal road from Sidon in the north to Rashidiyeh in the south is reminiscent of a journey through a military area.' The report said that the Zionist checkpoints along the road and a range of other measures, had proved insufficient to stop resistance operations, and that 'most of these are carried out from the roadside, mainly from the orchards in the Litani river area. The terrorists (sic) know the area well and they enjoy the help of local inhabitants. There is no doubt that they are ready for a long war of attrition.'

On 4th May the radio was even more forthright. 'Despite the efforts of the IDF, the terrorists' efforts to attack IDF soldiers are increasing and their actions are daily becoming more sophisticated and daring. The terrorists are very energetic, and the IDF is having a hard time checking them.'

Broad front

After listing a string of attacks on occupation forces, the Israeli radio concluded: 'We see from this that the terrorists are acting along a very broad front, their actions are becoming more daring and sophisticated, involving the use of many electronic means, and they do not hesitate to act in broad daylight either.'

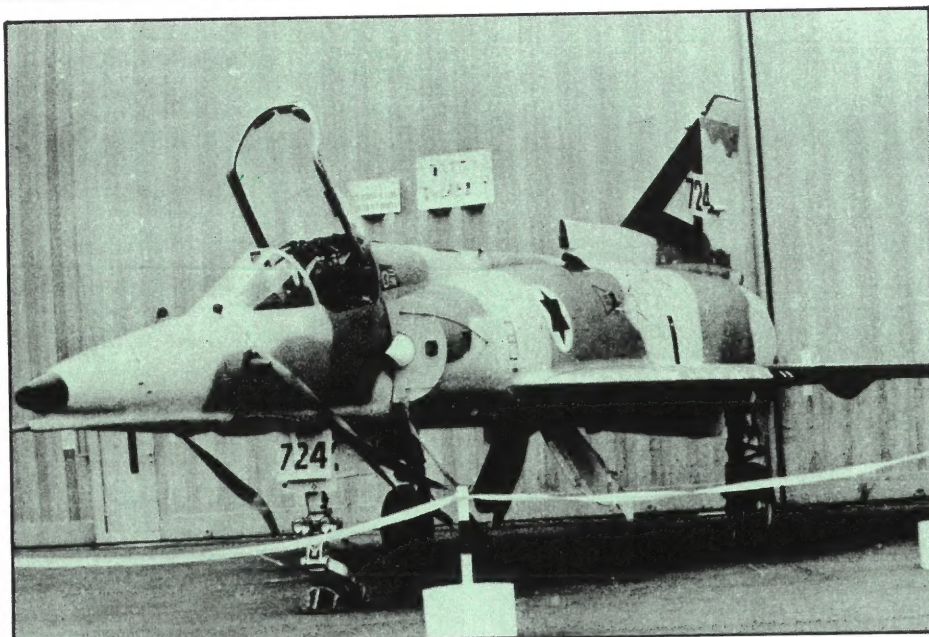
Resistance operations have escalated sharply since the conclusion in May of the US-sponsored 'troop withdrawal' agreement between the Zionists and the Phalangist regime in Beirut. This provides for a perpetual Israeli military presence in Lebanon, and for open borders between the Zionist state and Lebanon. Arab nationalists have firmly condemned the agreement as an extension of the Camp David accords, seriously threatening the territorial integrity and independence of the Arab homeland. In effect, the accord represents a formal endorsement of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

The Palestinian and Lebanese fighters on the ground have demonstrated their determined rejection of the agreement with a surge of resistance operations against occupation forces. On 24th May Israel radio admitted: 'Since the Lebanese government approved the agreement with Israel, the number of attempted terrorist attacks has increased', and it again pointed to 'the close co-operation between terrorist cells and the local inhabitants'. The radio said, ruefully, that the people of south Lebanon 'treat us with reservation, and are even hostile'.

The success of the Arab armed resistance against the Israeli occupation has been steadily acknowledged by the western media. On 5th June the London *Observer* said: 'By the Israeli Defence Forces' own admission, the ratio of casualties has been in the region of eight dead Israelis for every enemy killed.' It added: 'On these strictly arithmetical terms it has undoubtedly been the most successful guerrilla campaign ever waged by Arabs against Jews since the conflict began over 60 years ago in British-mandated Palestine.'

The paper cited two key reasons for the success of the resistance fighters. First, 'the terrain favours them. The Israelis are a highly mechanised, and therefore road-bound, army', and 'such roads as do exist are very often narrow, twisting, pot-holed, spine jarring, obstacle courses, ideal for ambush or the laying of mines'.

Second, many of the south Lebanese people who fled the region to escape the border fighting of the four years prior to the Israeli invasion, have now returned creating 'a very agreeable sea of people for a guerrilla fish to swim in'.



Israeli Kfir jet: now on sale to many countries

The Zionist Bomb

THE GROWING nuclear menace posed to the Arab nation by the Zionist state was highlighted last year by a visit to Tel Aviv by Edward Teller, the American nuclear scientist who is known as 'the father of the hydrogen bomb'.

At the centre of Teller's visit were plans for an Israeli-built nuclear facility, which will reportedly be sited in the occupied West Bank, to consolidate further the Zionists' grip on the region. On 9th December, shortly after meeting Teller, Israeli energy minister Yitzhak Modai admitted to plans for a reactor 'to produce electricity'.

Teller, however, worked during World War II on the secret Manhattan Project, which involved the manufacture of the atomic bombs used to destroy the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Subsequently, in 1952, he played a crucial role in perfecting the technology of the hydrogen bomb.

The Zionist state already has one French-supplied nuclear reactor at the secret Dimona plant in the Negev desert, and a smaller research facility on the Mediterranean coast, near Ashdod to the south of Tel Aviv. Last November, however, the ultra right wing science minister in the Beigin government, Yuval Ne'eman, admitted that Israel had tried without success to buy a third reactor from France and the United States. Faced with this refusal, he explained, he would be presenting to the government a plan for an Israeli-built installation. In January, a spokesman for Ne'eman confirmed that Teller had been in the country 'to work out a short-term or long-term agenda' for the scheme.

The refusal of the United States and France to countenance a reactor sale to the Zionists reflected the growing international anxiety regarding the nature of Israel's nuclear programme.

INTERNATIONAL ANXIETY over Israel's nuclear weapons programme has reached a point where both the United States and France have refused to sell another nuclear reactor to the Zionist state. Louis Eaks reviews the Israeli nuclear programme, in which the United States and South Africa are playing crucial roles.

Israel claims that it is developing nuclear energy solely for peaceful purposes. Independent reports, however, are unanimous that it is the military aspects of nuclear energy which have been at the heart of the programme.

This suspicion has been fuelled by Israel's persistent refusal to sign the 1963 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which calls for regular on-site inspection of nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency, to ensure that they are not being used to manufacture atomic weapons. The reactor at Dimona has been functioning since the mid-1960s, and has never been subjected to any type of independent inspection.

In 1973 a report prepared for the American Central Intelligence Agency for the US Defence Department as part of an assessment of Israel's military requirements during the Ramadan war confirmed that Israel

possessed nuclear weapons. By early 1981 the figure had risen to 200 nuclear bombs, according to *Foreign Report*, a newsletter published by the London *Economist* magazine. The journal added that the Zionist state also had as many as 200 delivery vehicles. Forty of these, it said, were short-range Jericho missiles, but most of the others 'are based on adapted versions of American weapons systems'.

Foreign Report also revealed that in 1956 — the year of Israel's invasion of Egypt in collusion with France and Britain — US President Eisenhower signed a secret agreement with the Zionists, assuring them that Washington would do nothing to hinder any Israeli plans to acquire nuclear weapons. The accord, reportedly signed as an inducement to secure an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Sinai, has been reaffirmed by every US President since.

The Zionist state has also been collaborating in its nuclear weapons programme with that other international outcast, the apartheid regime in South Africa. Pretoria has access to the vast uranium resources of occupied Namibia, and at the same time has developed the enrichment technology which is required for the production of both reactor fuel and weapons grade fissile material.

Israel and South Africa have been collaborating in the testing of nuclear weapons and in the design and testing of delivery systems. The United States has also been a party to this co-operation. In open defiance of United Nations sanctions against South Africa, the US provided the shell, and the gun which fired it, for Pretoria's first nuclear bomb test in September 1979.

It has also been disclosed that Israel and South Africa are co-operating with Taiwan in a joint venture to produce Cruise-type missiles. *Foreign Report* said that the cruise missile would have a range of 1,500 nautical miles, and added that 'President Carter withheld intelligence reports about this co-operation' from experts assigned to investigate whether a flash of light detected by a US satellite off the South African coast in September 1979 was a nuclear explosion.

A second flash of light in the same area was detected on 15th December 1980, deepening suspicions of South African involvement in nuclear weapons testing.

In 1981 it was revealed that Israeli engineers were also collaborating with Pretoria in the development of the apartheid regime's first nuclear submarine. On 28th February the London journal *8 Days* said that it had firm evidence that 'shielded by the tightest security measures ever taken in South Africa, Israeli and South African scientists and engineers are secretly building a nuclear submarine at Simonstown, the sprawling Indian Ocean naval base near Cape Town'.

The journal added that the project 'is the direct result of the secret visit made by General Weizmann, the then Israeli defence minister, to South Africa in the middle of March last year'.

Chad: Re-writing the facts to justify Washington's interests

AS THE illegal Chadian regime of Hisene Habre struggles against an increasingly successful liberation campaign being pursued by forces loyal to the legitimate government of Goukouni Oueddei, the Libyan Jamahiriya has once again been accused by the United States and its regional surrogate regimes of interference in Chad's internal affairs. There are growing fears that these baseless allegations will be used by Washington and its allies as the pretext for military intervention to prop up the ailing Habre regime.

Habre was President Oueddei's defence minister, but in 1980 he staged an armed rebellion against his government. Libyan troops were called in by the Chadian President, and after helping to quell the revolt were evacuated in late 1981. From bases in Sudan, however, Habre then renewed his rebellion, with the backing of Washington and the regimes in Khartoum and Cairo, and in March last year seized the Chad capital N'Djamena. President Oueddei's Government of Unity and National Transition (GUNT) regrouped its forces in northern Chad and launched a sustained liberation struggle against Habre's rebel regime.

Recent weeks have seen a string of major successes by the GUNT forces. On 22nd May, for example, it was disclosed that in fierce fighting over the previous two days, Habre's forces had lost 493 dead, 75 wounded and 1,016 captured in battles in northern Chad. Large quantities of supplies were also captured by the GUNT forces.

The illegal regime in N'Djamena moved to distract attention from its reverses in the north by fomenting a border war with Nigeria in the Lake Chad region in the

ON THE pretext of alleged Libyan military involvement in Chad's civil war, the United States and its regional allies are preparing to intervene to prop up the beleaguered rebel regime of Hisene Habre, as Robert Miller explains.

south. The first clashes broke out in early May, after Habre's men tried to annex six Nigerian villages and another strip of Nigerian territory believed to contain crude oil deposits. In these initial clashes, more than one hundred soldiers were reported to have died on both sides.

Nigeria and the Habre region reached a ceasefire agreement on 10th May, but on 5th June Nigeria confirmed that Habre had broken the accord, and that border clashes had resumed.

With Habre under pressure from Chadian liberation fighters in the north, and from the Nigerian regular army in the south, a chain of events familiar to close observers of the Chad scene began to unfold, in which the Libyan Jamahiriya was cast in the role of villain. Towards the end of May, the Numeiri regime in Sudan began to disseminate false claims to the effect that Libyan forces were preparing to intervene in Chad. Similar allegations began to emerge from Cairo.

Predictably, after Khartoum and Cairo came Washington. On 1st June the US State Department said that America was 'seriously

concerned' by what it claimed to be 'a recent upsurge of Libyan military action in northern Chad', warning that direct Libyan intervention against Habre's forces was imminent. The Libyan Jamahiriya responded by setting these US allegations squarely in the context of the earlier claims from Khartoum and Cairo. On 8th June the Political Editor of the Jamahiriya news agency JANA dismissed the noises from Washington as 'part of an American-Sudanese-Egyptian attempt to justify American intervention in Chad, in response to the major victories scored by the forces of GUNT'.

The Political Editor restated Libya's position that intervention by foreign forces in Chad would prompt the Jamahiriya to reconsider its neutrality in the conflict, because 'the security of Chad is linked to the security of Libya, and vice versa'.

The American sabre-rattling was also firmly rejected by GUNT, at a meeting in the northern town of Bardai on 3rd June. A communiqué affirmed that the US was preparing to 'internationalise the Chadian problem and provide justification for indirect or direct intervention' to save the Habre regime.

Rejecting US claims of Libyan involvement in Chad, GUNT stressed that it was waging a national liberation struggle 'without any support from foreign forces', and added that this had been confirmed by western journalists on the ground and in the areas controlled by GUNT in northern Chad.

GUNT nevertheless warned that 'if any threat of foreign interference materialises, the government feels it will have the right to appeal to its friends'.

Habre's black propaganda

A FOCUS of the Habre regime's black propaganda against the Jamahiriya has been the Aozou Strip, a 40,000 square mile region along Libya's southern borders. On 9th June it was reported that Habre's delegation to the OAU summit in Addis Ababa had lodged a complaint over Libya's 'occupation' of the Aozou Strip, and that an OAU committee had been set up, chaired by Gabon, to examine the matter.

The essence of Habre's claim is that the Strip was occupied by Libya in the early 1970s, and that the region is legally part of Chad. This bland assertion, however, masks a long and complex history of claims and counter-claims regarding the Aozou region. Until 1955 the Strip was recognised as being a part of Libya under a Franco-Italian agreement signed in 1935, when Italy was in occupation of

Libya and France controlled Chad, which was then known as French Equatorial Africa.

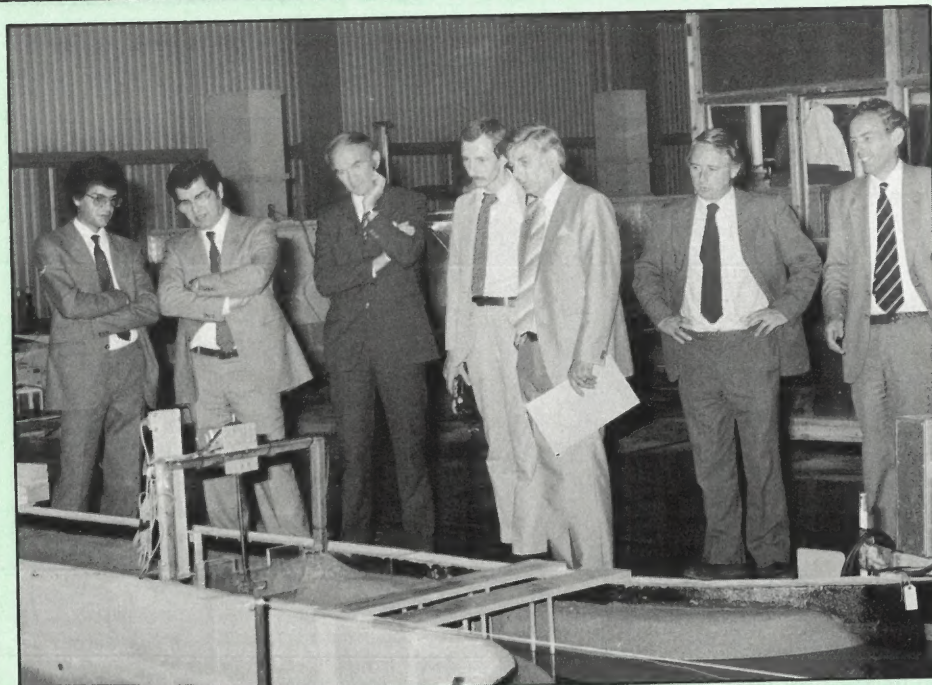
In 1955, however, the Aozou Strip was ceded to France by the Idris monarchy in Libya, whose foreign policy was largely determined by the British and Americans, who maintained an extensive military presence on Libyan territory. France, meanwhile, was the dominant western power in Africa, and still held Algeria and Tunisia in the grip of colonial rule.

Writing in 1963, six years before the Al Fateh Revolution, Dr J.I. Clarke of Durham University's Geography Department, showed a keen appreciation of the deep sense of injustice felt by Libyans over the ceding of the Aozou Strip to France. He said: 'The wrangles and muddles by European powers over

the frontiers have left a feeling that Libya has been deprived of what is rightfully hers.'

He added: 'There is discontent that the Franco-Libyan treaty of 1955 decided upon a frontier between Libya and French Equatorial Africa [now Chad] using straight lines between the Niger tripoint, instead of the more southerly boundary defined by the unratified Franco-Italian agreement of 1935.'

When Tripoli moved to reclaim its territory in the Aozou Strip in the early 1970s, it was acting on the basis of a firm case that pre-dated by many years the advent of Libya's Al Fateh Revolution or the current wave of fighting in Chad, and it is disingenuous of Habre and his US backers suddenly to place the Aozou question on the top of the agenda.



Secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in London, Adem Kuwiri, with Halcrow executives examining the scale model at Wallingford

Building for leisure

AS PART of its overall programme of social and economic development, the Libyan Jamahiriya is moving to provide its citizens with a full range of leisure and recreational facilities. Nowhere are these more important than in the major cities, where summer temperatures can be oppressive. In all Libya's main towns, park developments are under way, in which British firms are playing key roles.

One such firm is Swindon-based Sir William Halcrow & Partners, who last year were appointed by Benghazi Municipality as consultants for the city's Northern Lakes project, which entails the creation of artificial lakes, a park and associated recreational facilities on barren salt flats to the north of the town.

The coastal strip in the Benghazi region comprises low-lying salt flats (known locally as *subkhas*), which are subject to periodic flooding. Evaporation of the flood waters has caused salt deposits to build up, and the soil is highly saline and cannot be used either for agriculture or for building. In recent years, as the city has expanded, the Municipality has been filling some of the *subkhas*, to raise the ground level for construction and other developments. Elsewhere, the *subkhas* have been excavated to create permanent lakes with recreational and amenity value.

Just north east of the city centre, for example, the Selmani Subkha is being filled to help accommodate Benghazi's expansion, while to the south of the town dredging is under way at the West Lake Scheme, between the Guiliana Bridge and the Sports City.

The Northern Lakes project, about four kilometres north east of the city centre, comprises the next stage in the *subkha*

THE BRITISH consulting firm of Sir William Halcrow & Partners is playing a key role in the development of a major leisure complex in Benghazi, entailing the creation of artificial lakes, linked to the sea by canal, with a full range of park and lakeside recreational facilities. Dr Alan George reviews Benghazi's Northern Lakes project, which is only one of a series of developments under way in the Jamahiriya.

rehabilitation programme. A series of linked lakes inland will be connected to the sea by two canals, each more than one kilometre in length, while the area between the lakes and the canals will be developed as a park. In all, the scheme will cover about 330 hectares.

Sailing

Planned lakeside amenities include facilities for sailing, boating, wind surfing and fishing. The canals will allow direct access by boat to the sea. In addition, bird sanctuaries will be established on two artificial islands. Facilities in the park itself will include an open-air theatre, walks, rides, an antelope park, playing fields, an adventure playground, camping and barbecue sites and a restaurant.

Detailed planning of the Northern Lakes scheme began in 1979, when the Benghazi Municipality awarded Libya's Al Mahasa company a design and construction contract for the Phase I works. These entailed the roads around the lakes, including the bridges across the canals, the canals themselves (except for their connections to the sea), and part of the lake excavation. Construction is now in progress, and should be complete by 1986.

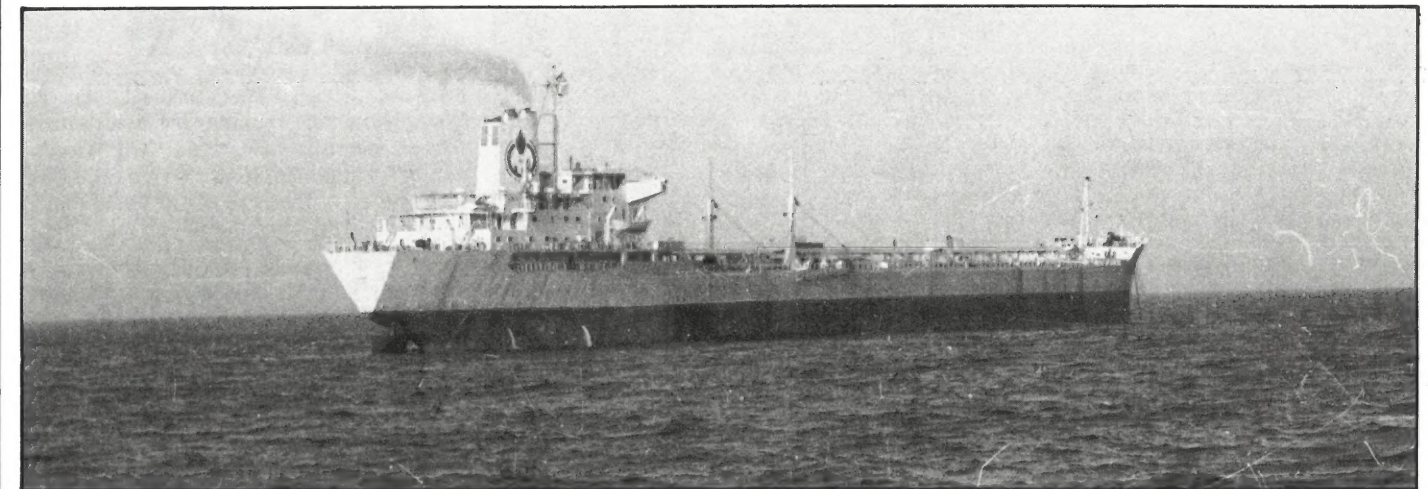
Sir William Halcrow & Partners were brought in last year, to check the Phase I designs and supervise construction, to design the Phase II works, which will complete the major civil engineering on the scheme, and to design and supervise Phase III, covering the park and lakeside leisure facilities.

Work has progressed rapidly, and on 10th March this year the firm marked the completion of the Phase III designs at a ceremony in Benghazi attended by Mr Ibrahim Bakar, Secretary of the People's Committee of the Municipality of Benghazi, and other officials from the municipality.

The care with which the British consultants are approaching the scheme is underlined by developments currently under way at the Hydraulics Research Station at Wallingford, near Oxford. A detailed scale model of the lakes and canals is being used to simulate water movements in the system. In particular, the model is being employed to test tidal flushing of the artificial lagoon, to examine the salinity and temperature of the water during summer conditions, and to simulate and predict the rate at which stormwater from the city of Benghazi could be flushed out of the lagoon after a rainstorm. The test programme is well advanced, and the final results are expected before the end of the year.

Another British consulting firm, Robert Matthew, Johnson-Marshall & Partners, are involved in park developments in the coastal town of Misrata, 120 kilometres east of Tripoli. In June it was disclosed that the firm had submitted designs for a park in the Goz-tik area in the town centre, which will form a memorial to the freedom fighters who died resisting the Italian invasion and occupation of Libya. The firm is also working on designs for the main town square, and for a smaller park at the Air Academy on the edge of town.

Other major developments are under way in Tripoli. Last year the South Korean firm of Samsung Construction signed a \$85.3 million contract for the first phase of the city's Al Nasr Forest Project, an impressive leisure complex which will include a zoo and botanical gardens. The first phase, due for completion by 1985, entails construction of zoological gardens on a 31,000 square metre site. About forty animal cages will be built, and Samsung will also supply the animals. A second stage provides for botanical gardens, and a Third Phase calls for the construction of a sports complex.



A switch to fresh water ballasting could preserve the ecosystem

Mixing oil and water

IF SHIPPERS can be persuaded to substitute fresh water for the sea water now widely used for ballast in returning oil tankers, a significant decline in marine oil pollution would result, while the fresh water ballast (FWB) might have an economic use for irrigation in oil exporting countries. This was the central proposition examined at a two-day conference in London last month, jointly convened by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the Libyan Jamahiriya's National Academy for Scientific Research.

The FWB concept has been mooted for some years, and the Libyan Academy's Environmental Protection Programme has been at the forefront of its proponents. In 1978 Dr Yusuf Elmehrik, the Academy's Deputy Director, undertook a major study of pollution in the Mediterranean. For Libya, marine pollution is a crucial issue. The north African country has 2,000 kilometres of coast; it is centrally located on the southern shore of the Mediterranean; it is an oil exporter itself; it sits astride major oil tanker routes from the Arab Gulf to Europe; and sea current and wind patterns tend to bring pollution to Libya's shores.

Dr Elmerick and his team reasoned that an end to sea water ballasting by oil tankers could make a major contribution to alleviating the problem. Up to one third of the dead weight tonnage of tankers returning to pick up cargoes is conventionally filled with sea water, which is carried in the cargo tanks. Here, it mixes with oil residue, and the heavily contaminated ballast is discharged as the vessel approaches the oil port.

An IMO study has estimated that in 1980 0.71 million tonnes of oil were discharged into the world's oceans as the result of tanker operations. In 1981 1,319 million tonnes of crude oil were transported by sea, and an estimated 0.05 per cent of the total was discharged. The problem is particularly acute in enclosed seas like the Mediterranean, where the oil pollution takes much longer to disperse.

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya has been in the forefront of research into ways of curbing marine pollution from the operations of oil tankers, and last month a London conference co-sponsored by Libya examined the scope for a novel ballasting system for oil tankers which could both reduce oil pollution and provide a new source of fresh water for agriculture. Dr Alan George attended the seminar, and spoke with Libyan researchers pioneering in this field.

Ecosystem

The key objective in switching to fresh water ballasting was to preserve the marine ecosystem. In addition, however, it was clear to researchers that there was no reason why returning oil tankers should carry fresh water as ballast only. The tanker could be fully laden with water, for use in the arid oil producing countries. To this end, research was undertaken in the late 1970s which confirmed the availability of fresh water surpluses in the oil consuming countries.

Having established water availability, researchers in Libya shifted their emphasis to studies of economic uses for 'imported' water, and particularly its possible use in agriculture, which will account for most of the expected increase in water demand in the Jamahiriya. As a first step a series of experiments have been conducted to examine the impact on seed germination

and plant growth of irrigation with oil-contaminated water, of the type that might one day be supplied from the ballast tanks or cargo holds of oil tankers.

Papers on these experiments were a highlight of the London conference. One study tested alfalfa, corn, bean, cotton, barley, wheat and pea seeds under laboratory conditions. Different types of irrigation fluids were compared, ranging from water containing only the soluble fraction of crude oil, with floating solids skimmed off, to straight mixes of oil and water, with varying concentrations of oil. It was found that water that had been skimmed slowed the growth of alfalfa seedlings and inhibited the germination of cotton and bean seeds, but that it hardly affected all the other seeds tested.

The oil mixed with water was similarly found to have only a very limited impact on seed germination and plant growth, but only where the proportion of oil was low. Higher concentrations of oil proved damaging to both germination and growth.

These findings were later confirmed in a twenty-five week test of seed germination, plant growth and crop yield conducted in a Tripoli glasshouse and using only water with oil solids skimmed. No statistically significant differences were discovered between the development of plants irrigated with oil polluted water and those given only fresh water, although there were indications that the stress imposed by the oil contamination were alleviated by fertilisation and aeration.

The London seminar held another paper describing similar experiments conducted in Norway, which also entailed analyses of the build-up of poisonous oil compounds in vegetables. The results were encouraging, with no hard evidence being discovered that the compounds were present in quantities that would pose a serious health hazard to consumers.

Drip systems

Further research is now under way, in co-ordination with the Norwegian researchers,▷



Dependable irrigation is essential to produce adequate food products

at Kuwait's Centre for Protected Vegetable Production. A key feature of this Norwegian and Kuwaiti research has been the testing of drip irrigation systems, which are widely used in the Arab region. These systems comprise a series of flexible plastic tubes, buried permanently in the ground. Regularly spaced valves release carefully controlled volumes of water, but only to the area around the roots of each individual plant. Results so far indicate that these water-efficient drip systems function well using oil-contaminated water.

Further research into all aspects of agricultural applications for oil polluted water is clearly an urgent need, and a proposed pilot agricultural project near Tobruk in north east Libya should yield invaluable data. As a first step, Tripoli's Al Fateh University's Soils Department has conducted laboratory tests on soils from the proposed site, which have indicated that oil contaminated water has no short term impact on the chemical or physical properties of soil.

Much of the debate surrounding fresh water ballasting has centred on the comparative costs of imported and desalinated water. The discussion hinges, however, on the *quality* of the water in question. Modern oil tankers — defined by the IMO as those built since 1979 — are fitted with segregated ballast tanks (SBTs). At no stage does ballast water come into contact with oil from the cargo tanks. The ballast water accordingly suffers no contamination, and fresh water ballast carried by such vessels would be of high quality, and much cheaper than desalinated water.

In older tankers, however, ballast water is carried in the cargo tanks, and the quality of fresh water ballast would depend greatly on the system employed to clean the tanks and manage the ballast.

Traditionally, oil tanker cargo holds are cleaned by flushing with sea water, but this leaves considerable residue which contaminates the ballast water. In the past, this toxic mixture of oil and water was discharged at sea, prior to the vessel's berthing to take on new oil cargo. It was a major source of pollution.

In 1978, however, the IMO made compulsory a cleaning system known as load on top (LOT). This involves cleaning the cargo tanks with sea water from high pressure jets, to leave the same mixture of oil and water as in older cleaning methods. Instead of being ditched overboard, however, the mixture is pumped to slop tanks towards the stern of the vessel, where the oil and water are separated by gravity. The 'clean' water, containing only the soluble fraction of oil, is pumped over the side, while the floating surface oil in the slop tank is returned to the cargo holds, with the new oil cargo being loaded on top.

Pollution

LOT does curb oil pollution by tankers, but fresh water carried as ballast in the cargo tanks would still become contaminated by remaining oil residue. Nevertheless, oil floating in such ballast could with little difficulty be skimmed, in the same way as the surface oil in the slop tanks. It is the 'clean' ballast, comprising water contaminated only with soluble hydrocarbons, and the similar 'clean' water from the slop tanks, which might have agricultural applications on shore.

Considerable time is required, however, for the gravity separation that is central to the LOT system, and for comparatively short voyages, such as from Europe to Libya, the process cannot be used. The IMO have undertaken a study, sponsored by the Jamahiriya, to examine the possibility of building facilities ashore to handle

the contents of slop tanks, but such installations would be costly.

A new and more effective procedure for washing the cargo tanks of oil tankers will become mandatory under IMO regulations in October this year. Crude Oil Washing (COW) entails the use of crude oil, rather than water, to flush the tanks. Oil is a much more efficient cleaning agent than water, since it has a solvent as well as a blasting effect. The end result of the COW process is neat oil, which can be pumped ashore at the oil port along with the main tanker cargo. In turn, COW leaves the cargo holds much cleaner than LOT, minimising the contamination of any fresh water carried as ballast.

Water carried as ballast in modern SBT vessels would be cheaper than desalinated water, whether carried as ballast or main cargo in non-SBT vessels, or as main cargo in SBT ships, might be more expensive, taking into account the costs of purchase, transportation and treatment to a standard comparable to desalinated water.

Direct cost comparisons between desalinated and imported oil contaminated water can be misleading, however. If further research confirms the viability of irrigation with polluted water, imported water for agricultural use would need full treatment process to bring it up to the same standard as desalinated water. In the enormous volumes required by agriculture in countries like Libya, which have great potential for an expansion of irrigation, imported oil-contaminated water would doubtless prove inestimably cheaper than desalinated water.

The Libyan Jamahiriya, like other Arab oil producing countries, is committed to achieving the maximum possible level of economic self-sufficiency, and Tripoli is extremely cautious about becoming too dependent on external suppliers for a resource as basic as water. Delegates at the London seminar noted, however, that there are numerous oil consuming countries with water surpluses, and that if, for political or military reasons, the source were blocked, the water consumers could turn to others. There was nevertheless a consensus at the seminar that oil producers would be wise to view imported water as a supplement to other water reserves, and to avoid any heavy dependency on external water supplies.

Dr Yusuf Elmehrik of the Jamahiriya's National Academy for Scientific Research strongly endorsed this standpoint, saying that imported oil contaminated water should be seen as an 'alternative' source. Such water, he said, should be employed on schemes that were not crucial to the national economy, for example the irrigation of tree seedlings in wind breaks, or the re-charging of underground water reserves.

'You cannot become dependent on this source,' he insisted. 'There are many political situations where the supply might be cut off. One must be flexible, and treat imported water as one would a stand-by generator in a power plant.'

Contracts near for desert pipeline

MORE THAN ninety per cent of the Jamahiriya comprises arid desert, and water is an even more crucial resource than oil for the country's long-term economic well-being. Even where rainfall is higher, in the highlands of the north east and north west, it is irregular. Groundwater has therefore been the major source of the water needed for Libya's agricultural and industrial expansion programme, and to meet the needs of the growing towns and cities. To date, most of the water pumped from the ground has come from aquifers — water-bearing rock strata — in the coastal zones, which are recharged naturally by the intermittent rainfall, although over-exploitation has led in places to alarming drops in ground water levels.

The largest groundwater source in the Jamahiriya, however, lies in the desert south, where billions of cubic metres of high quality water was trapped below ground thousands of years ago. So far, these southern reserves, which are not renewable, have been tapped only for a number of local irrigation schemes, for example in Kufra and in the area of Sebha. The 1981-85 development plan, however, called for the construction over five years of a 1,900 kilometre trans-desert pipeline to carry 700 million cubic metres per annum for agricultural industrial and domestic use in the coastal regions. Wells will be drilled in the Sarir and Tazerno areas in the south east, and the pipeline will terminate at a point between Benghazi and Sirte on the coast.

In May it was disclosed that the South Korean firm Dong Ah Construction Industrial Company (DACIC) was placed to win two key contracts for the scheme. One is for the laying of the pipeline, and the other entails setting up factories to manufacture concrete-reinforced steel pipe at Marsa Brega and Sarir. About two million tonnes of steel will be required, and much of this will come from the steel works now under construction at Misrata.

The pipeline fabrication contract is valued at about \$1 billion, and the pipelaying award will be worth about \$2 billion. The total cost of the entire project, including aggregate supply and road construction, is estimated at \$5 billion.

The scheme is being administered by the Coastal Belt Water Authority, a division of the Land Reclamation and Agrarian Reform Secretariat, and the management contractor is America's Brown & Root.



Water is piped from aquifers to arid coastal zones

Libyan management for Tripoli hotel

A PEOPLE's committee on 30th April assumed the administration of Tripoli's 350-room Hotel al Kabir, the newest in the Libyan capital, which since its opening last summer had been managed by Caledonian Hotel Management International (CHMI), a British Caledonian Airways affiliate based in Majorca.

Following the formation of the people's committee, CHMI moved into the consultancy stage of its contract, which provides for two of the firm's staff to remain in Tripoli, initially for two years, to advise the committee, whose Secretary is Sharif al Moghrabi.

The formation of the Al Kabir's people's committee is in line with Libyan policy, as agreed by the General People's Congress in February, to reduce the number of non-Libyan experts in the Jamahiriya, as a means of raising overall economic self-sufficiency and conserving foreign exchange reserves. More than one quarter of Al Kabir's 320 staff are Libyans, with most of the rest coming from other Arab countries.

Argentina trains steel workers

LIBYAN WORKERS who will operate the integrated iron and steel plant under construction at the coastal town of Misrata, east of Tripoli, are being trained by Argentinian steel companies, under a contract awarded by the Jamahiriya to the Austrian firm Voest Alpine.

Voest Alpine has signed contracts with two Argentinian firms to train 99 Libyan steel workers. Up to thirty will arrive this month at the Dalmine company's direct reduced iron (DRI) plant at Cam-

pana, eighty kilometres from Buenos Aires, and the others will train at the Acindar Company's Via Constitucion DRI plant, in Sante Fe Province some 250 kilometres from the Argentinian capital. Training will last up to 14 months.

Voest Alpine was part of a consortium that in 1981 won a \$339.9 million contract for a 1.1 million tonnes per annum DRI plant at the Misrata complex. The four other companies involved were all from West Germany. The award also called for training of Libyans to operate the plant, and Voest Alpine was responsible for this part of the contract.

The Austrian firm is in addition the lead member of two consortia that each have contracts to supply a steel rolling mill at Misrata. A \$524 million hot rolling mill will have an annual capacity of 580,000 tonnes, and a \$498 million cold mill will produce 120,000 tonnes per annum. Moreover, Voest Alpine is linked with West Germany's Korf Engineering in a contract to supply a \$539.3 million, 670,000 tonnes per annum, steel production plant to produce blooms and billets. All these contracts also included provision for the training of Libyan steel workers.

Voest Alpine will be training a total of 694 Libyans, including 99 for the DRI plant. 133 will be trained for the hot rolling mill and 243 for the cold mill. 51 will gain skills needed for the continuous casting of flat steel products, and 168 will study techniques for the continuous casting of billets and blooms.

The Austrian firm had approached the Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago (ISCOTT) for training facilities at the Trinidadian steel plant at Point Lisas on the west coast. ISCOTT, however, concluded that the suggested programme was beyond their capabilities.

The Misrata steel works is the centrepiece of the Jamahiriya's \$62.5 billion 1981-1985 develop-

ment plan. The \$3.3 billion first phase, for completion by 1985, provides for an annual capacity of 1.2 million tonnes. A second stage, for completion by 1995, will increase capacity to five million tonnes, while a third stage will give a capacity of seven million tonnes by the year 2005. Most of the major first phase construction contracts were awarded in 1981.

Millions owed in outstanding loans

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya is owed millions of dollars in outstanding loans from a number of countries and financial institutions, the Jamahiriya news agency JANA disclosed on 9th May. As of 25th November last year, the debts comprised \$182.4 million from the Egyptian Central Bank; \$22.66 million from the Guinean Central Bank; \$25 million from the Mauritanian Central Bank; \$55.3 million from the Jamaican Central Bank; and £10,657 million from the Sudan Central Bank.

Power link signals co-operation

THE PROGRESS being attained by Libya and Tunisia in their efforts to integrate their economies was signalled on 30th May, with the official opening of a trans-frontier electricity transmission line to supply power from Nalout, in the Jamahiriya, to the Dahabia region in southern Tunisia. The power line, which is supplied by a generating station in Nalout, was inaugurated at a ceremony attended by Muhammad Bilqassem, Libya's Justice Secretary, and Idris Qiqqa, Tunisia's Interior Minister. Also present were the Jamahiriya's General Com- >



Cement is one of the most important basic housing materials

missioner in Tunisia and his Tunisian counterpart.

Earlier, on 15th May, Libya's General Commissioner in Tunis conferred with Tunisian Agriculture Minister Al Asa'ad Benousman, to examine ways of bolstering agricultural co-operation between the two countries. Well drilling and integration of food production were high on the agenda, the Jamahiriya news agency JANA disclosed. The Commissioner also held talks with Tunisian Justice Minister Mohammed Shaker, focussing on the exchange of expertise in the judicial sphere.

The moves came in the context of a merger agreement concluded between the two countries last year, following a visit to Tunis by Muammar Qadhafi. The aim was not an 'instant' political union, but a gradual process of economic and political integration, entailing a close co-ordination of internal and foreign policies. Shortly after the Libyan leader's visit to Tunis a Libyan-Tunisian Joint Commission was set up to examine practical measures aimed at closer collaboration.

Zuwara smelter to go ahead

DEVELOPMENT FUNDS have been allocated for the Jamahiriya's first aluminium smelting complex, to be set up at Zuwara, on the coast 110 kilometres west of Tripoli. The smelter will have an annual capacity of 120,000 tonnes and will cost \$1.25 billion. An associated \$500 million petroleum coke plant will have a capacity of 170,000 tonnes.

At its February meeting, the General People's Congress resolved that in view of the cash flow problems stemming from the world oil glut, new projects should be started only where and when they were considered of vital importance to Libya's overall economic

development programme. Other schemes which, like the Zuwara complex, have been defined as crucial, include a fertiliser complex at Sirte.

The aluminium smelter has been put to tender as eight major turnkey contracts and four equipment purchase orders, and awards are reportedly imminent. Project manager for the scheme is America's Kaiser Engineers and Constructors.

In 1981 Milan-based Foster Wheeler Italiana won a \$45 million engineering procurement and construction supervision contract for the petroleum coke plant, and bids for the main contracts are now being evaluated.

Cement capacity expands

THE JAMAHIRIYA's ambitious development schemes have entailed a countrywide construction boom, and an ever-rising demand for basic housing materials. Cement is one of the most important of these, and Libya has moved to increase its overall level of self-sufficiency by building major cement plants to meet the rising demand without turning to imports.

In May tenders were submitted for a major new contract project, to be located at Wadi Ashat, near the south western town of Sebha, and to have an annual capacity of one million tonnes. The scheme will cost an estimated \$170 million, and take three years to complete. Consultant and construction supervisor is America's Kuljian Corporation, and the client is the Jamahiriya's Heavy Industry Secretariat.

The Wadi Ashat works is one of two planned for the desert south. Kuljian is drawing up designs for the second, which is also likely to be located in the Sebha area.

Amongst the bidders for the Sebha plant were Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, which recently completed the one million tonnes per annum al Fataiah cement works at Derna. Another Japanese firm, Kawasaki Heavy Industries, is nearing completion of a one million tonnes per year plant at the town of Zliten.

In May it was disclosed that Poland's Polimex-Cekop has won a \$22.3 million contract to build an access road for the al Fataiah works, and to develop a limestone clay quarry. Client is the Heavy Industry Secretariat.

Agreement with Hungary

THE JAMAHIRIYA and Hungary have concluded a cultural, scientific and technical co-operation agreement, the Jamahiriya news agency JANA has announced. The accord, signed in Tripoli on 8th May by the visiting Hungarian Secretary of State for Education and Culture, Andras Koresog, and by Libya's Secretary of Education, Abdul Hafez az Zulaytini, provides for the exchange of expertise and teachers, and for consultations on educational, technical, cultural, higher education and vocational training programmes. In addition, it includes measures to equate the Libyan and Hungarian high school diplomas.

Hospital ship for Red Crescent

THE JAMAHIRIYA's Red Crescent Organisation has bought a hospital ship from the West German Red Cross, the London daily *Lloyds List* has disclosed. The West German organisation said that it could no longer afford to operate the vessel, which it

acquired in 1979 and which was damaged by artillery fire in Lebanon while bringing medical care to the civilian victims of last year's Zionist invasion.

Ring road link for Benghazi

RISING INCOMES and living standards in the Libyan Jamahiriya have brought a rapid increase in levels of car ownership, while the country's development programme has entailed a sharp rise in the volume of goods transported by road. To ensure an unhindered flow of goods and passenger traffic, a comprehensive network of trunk and secondary roads is being developed. At the same time, a series of ring roads is being constructed to avert serious traffic congestion and consequent environmental pollution in the major towns and cities.

It was disclosed in May that Libya's National Construction Company (NCC) has a contract for the first of five intersections on the four-kilometre Uruba to Benghazi road, which links Benghazi sports stadium with the third of the city's concentric ring roads.

It is expected that NCC will appoint a sub-contractor soon for the intersection number one. The work will include construction of 1.5 kilometres of road, two bridges and a roundabout. Consultant is Britain's Rendel, Palmer & Tritton.

NCC is also main contractor for intersections 2 and 3. Design work has yet to be started on the remaining two intersections, numbers 4 and 5.

Oilfield development for Italy

THE OCCIDENTAL Petroleum Corporation, one of the largest foreign oil firms operating in the Jamahiriya, has issued a letter of intent to Milan-based Foster Wheeler Italiana for engineering work related to a \$25-30 million oilfield development scheme.

The Italian firm will undertake the engineering works on downstream installations, including pipelines, and injection and separation facilities. It is understood that the field in question is No. 103, Occidental's largest Libyan oilfield, which is located some 160 kilometres south of the Gulf of Sirte.

Occidental's Fidda field is scheduled to start production in August, as specified in its exploration and production sharing agreement with the Jamahiriya's National Oil Corporation.

Jamahiriya

□ **26th May:** Muammar Qadhafi reviews foreign affairs with the newly-formed People's Committee at the Jamahiriya's Foreign Liaison Bureau.

□ **26th May:** A Bulgarian cultural week in Libya is opened with a ceremony attended by visiting Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister Ivan Ghanov. The week of cultural events is being sponsored by the Bulgarian-Libyan Arab Friendship Society.

□ **28th May:** The Jamahiriya's Basic People's Congresses start their first ordinary session of the year. The basic congresses are the grassroots forums where citizens freely debate and decide their country's internal and international policies.

□ **31st May:** The Jamahiriya news agency JANA announces the formation of an administrative committee at Tripoli port, established at the instigation of the port's revolutionary committee. Under Libya's *jamahiri* system of direct democracy, the Movement of Revolutionary Committees is charged with propagating the ideals of the Al Fateh Revolution, while executive power is firmly exercised by the people as a whole, through the Basic People's Congresses. Direct self-administration at places of work is a key objective of the Revolution.

Arab Homeland

□ **15th May:** Libya's Secretary for Oil, Mr Kamal Hassan Al Maqhour, confers in Kuwait with Sheikh Jaber al Ahmad al Sabah.

□ **18th May:** Libyan Foreign Liaison Secretary Abdel Ati Al Ubeidi holds talks in Fez with Morocco's King Hassan, as part of a tour of North West African countries. Earlier, Mr Ubeidi conferred with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

□ **19th May:** The Jamahiriya demands the expulsion of Lebanon from the Arab League in retaliation for its conclusion of a treaty with the Zionist state.

□ **31st May:** The Jamahiriya news agency JANA

announces the opening in Tunis of an exhibition of paintings depicting Libya's cultural heritage, staged at the Tunisian capital's Libyan Arab Cultural Centre.

Jamahiriya economic news

□ **20th May:** The Joint Libyan Arab-Ethiopian Mining Company signs a contract in Addis Ababa with an unnamed international company for the exploitation of potash deposits in the Dalul region, north east of the Ethiopian capital.

□ **21st May:** The Jamahiriya news agency JANA discloses that the General People's Committee for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation has decided to place new emphasis on cereal production in Libya's development programme. Once focus of efforts to boost cereal output will be the existing irrigation projects in the southern desert regions, for example at the oases of Kufra and Sarir, which exploit subterranean water reserves. The objective is to attain a total production next year of 500,000 tonnes of wheat and 300,000 tonnes of barley.

□ **28th May:** As part of Libya's economic development progress, the Jamahiriya news agency discloses that a 35 kilometre network of urban roads is under construction in the coastal town of Misrata, and that studies and designs are under way for a further 49 kilometres.

□ **28th May:** Mr Muhammad al Manqush, the Libyan Secretary for Housing, meets in Tripoli with Mr Ion Stanescu, Romanian Minister for Foreign Construction, for talks centring on ways of bolstering co-operation in the construction and housing fields. In a separate meeting, Mr Stanescu conferred with Libya's Education Secretary, Abdel Hafiz az Zulaytini.

□ **30th May:** The Jamahiriya news agency JANA discloses that Libya's Agricultural Research Centre has carried out an intensive survey of cereal cultivation in Libya, in collaboration with Italy's International Bari Institute. The study involved classifying local varieties of wheat, rye

and other grains in an effort to conserve the species. A separate study was made of the scope for expanding the cultivation of truffles.

□ **31st May:** JANA announces that an agreement has been signed with Cuba for the establishment of a joint investment and finance company.

□ **10th June:** The Libyan Arab-Uganda Bank for Foreign Trade and Development reopens in Kampala, one year after being closed following the discovery of poor management procedures.

International

□ **23rd May:** Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs, Mr Hassan Sheikh al Islam, concludes a visit to the Jamahiriya.

□ **27th May:** Vladimir Demchenko, a Deputy Premier of the Soviet Union, leaves Tripoli at the end of a week's visit to the Jamahiriya.

□ **28th May:** The Jamahiriya's Oil Secretary, Kamal Hassan al Maqur, and Economy and Light Industry Secretary Musa Abu Freiwa, confer with Maltese Minister of Industry Joseph Grima, who is visiting the Jamahiriya for talks aimed at bolstering Libyan-Maltese economic ties.

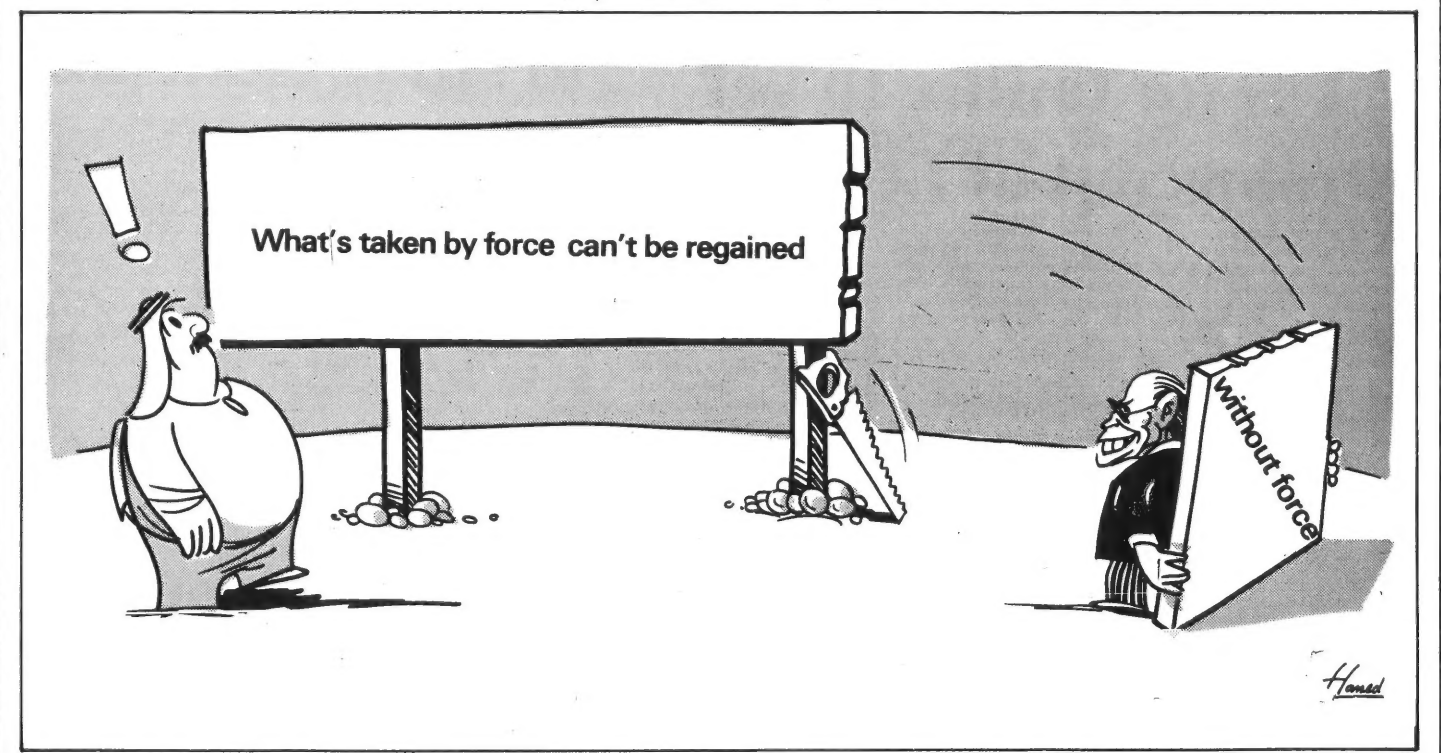
□ **28th May:** President Didier Ratsiraka of Madagascar stops over at Tripoli airport en route to the OAU summit in Addis Ababa. The President is received by Abdel Salam Jalloud.

□ **30th May:** Dr Ali Abdelsalam Treiki, Libya's Permanent Representative at the United Nations, holds talks in Conakry with President Ahmad Sekou Toure of Guinea.

□ **5th June:** Brigadier Abu Bakr Younis Jaber, Commander in Chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, meets in Tripoli with the visiting Yugoslav Deputy Defence Minister, who conveys a message from Admiral Branko Mamula, the Yugoslav Defence Minister.

□ **8th June:** Maltese Interior Minister Lory Sant arrives in Tripoli at the head of a high-ranking delegation to discuss means of bolstering ties between the Libyan and Maltese peoples.

□ **8th June:** Talks on closer trade co-operation start in Tripoli between Libyan officials and a visiting Spanish delegation.



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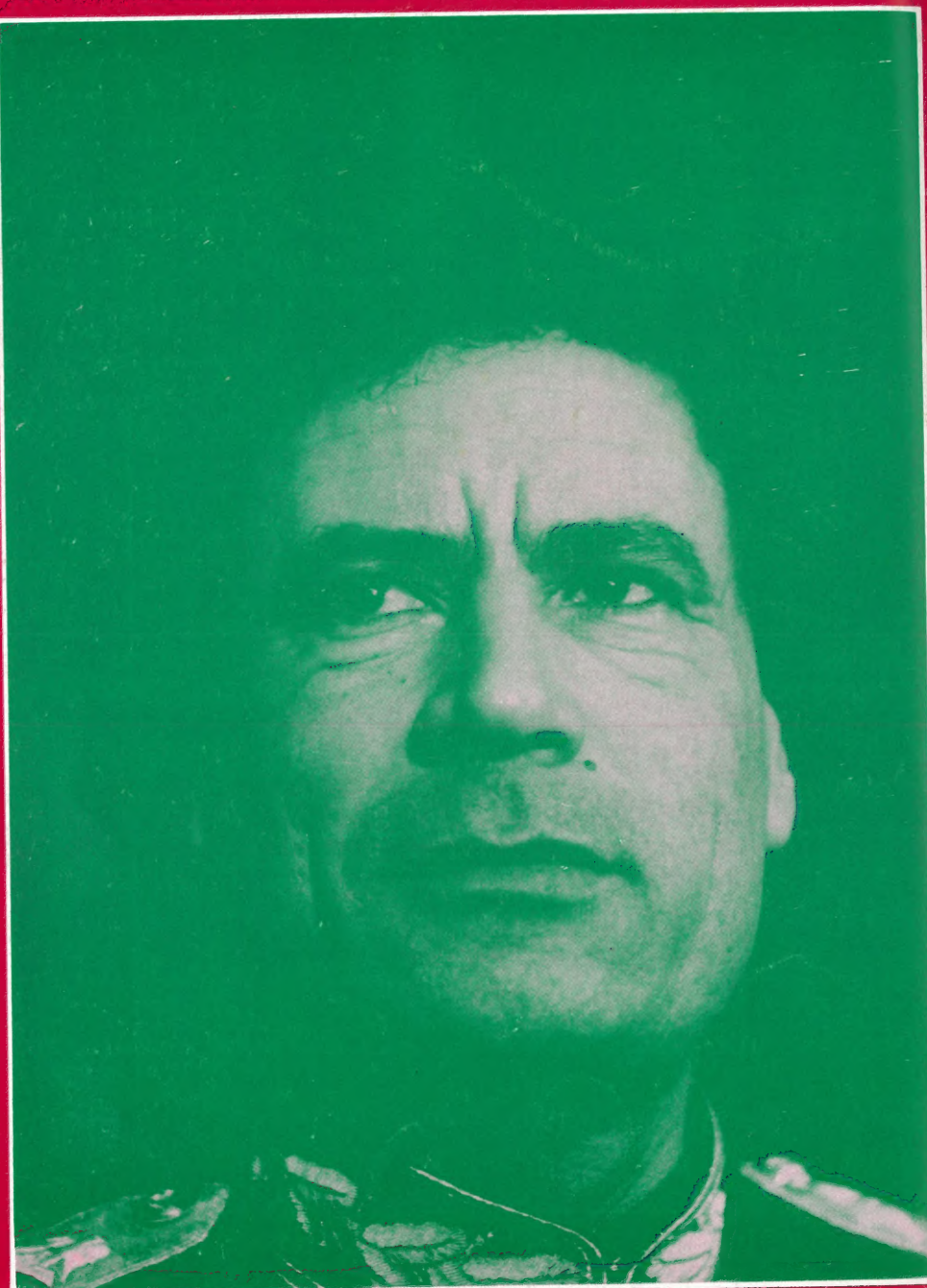
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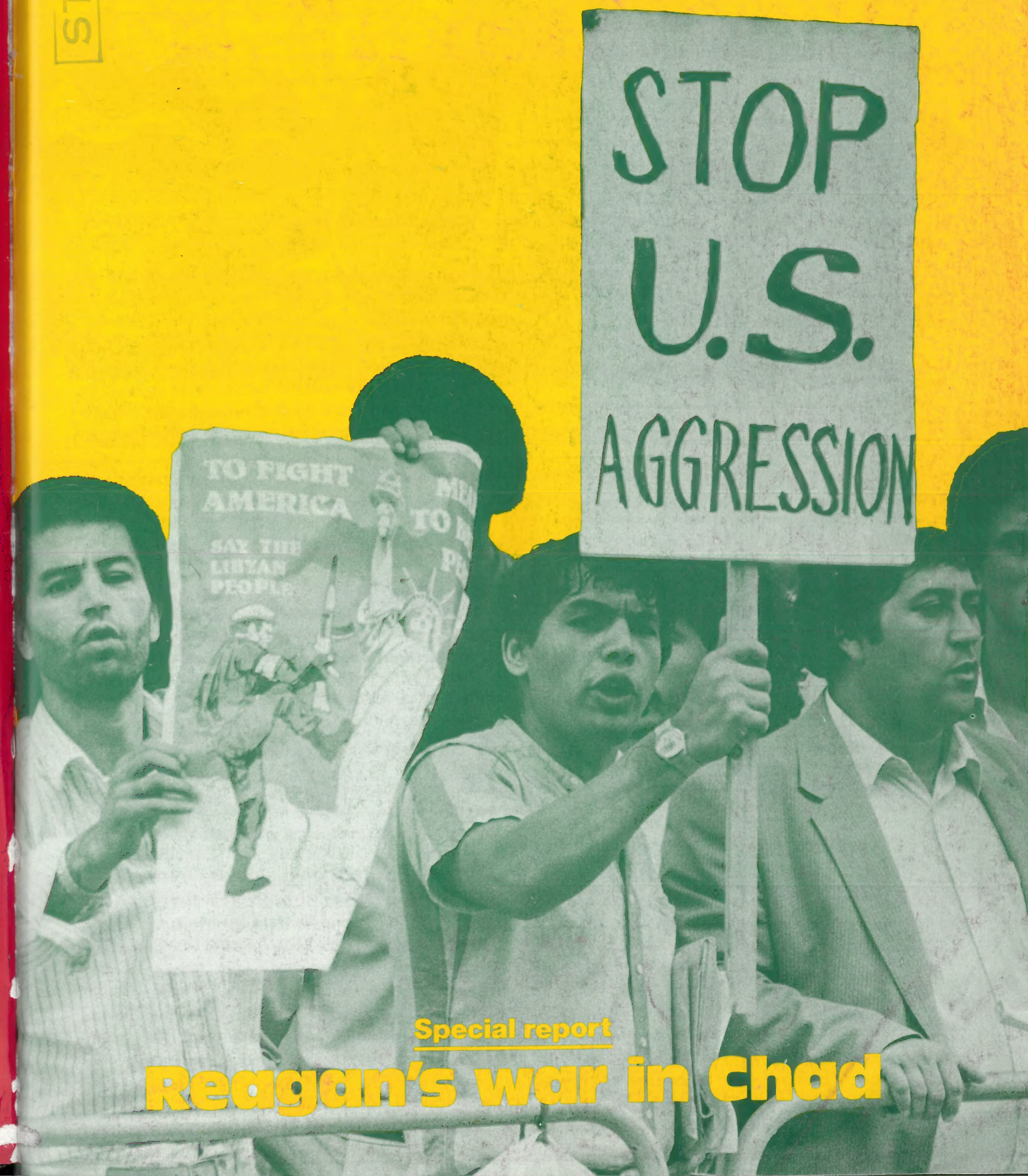
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